

Personal Reflection:

- Examine your heart; would you say you're totally surrendered to Christ? Give clear evidence for your answer. What would the people who know you best say?

- **Jesus stated in Matthew 6:21**, "*For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.*" Examine yourself; what is the treasure of your heart? Whatever the treasure of your heart is, this is where your "first fruits" will go.

- Are you spiritually investing in people other than yourself? Living above and beyond yourself is a principle of serving not being served; the attitude of Jesus Christ our Savior who came to serve and not be served. This week, find an opportunity to serve, or give back to others in the name of Christ.

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

Living Above and Beyond
Living Above and Beyond Ourselves
Deuteronomy 26:10

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Bethel Church
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Living Above and Beyond Ourselves

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelc.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 15, 2012

Deuteronomy 26:10

Quick Review: Moses declares that because of the good the Lord has invested into the lives of the Hebrews, and us, they and we intentionally and absolutely gather unto Him the first of our fruit.

My Story:

- Share a time when someone you know gave “*above and beyond*” themselves; they unselfishly gave without thinking of themselves, they gave only to help you or others.
- Ever remember a time when your mother or father told you that you had “attitude?” What is the definition of attitude? What is “Attitude of the Heart?” Discuss
- Have you ever had an experience when as a parent your child was compliant to obey you, but you could tell their attitude was not right, they had a bad attitude even though they did what they were supposed to? Discuss. If you’re not a parent but you had the experience of being a child that complied with your parents wishes yet you knew in your heart you had a bad attitude, share that experience.

Growing Deeper:

- What did Pastor Matthew say the Hebrew word “*First*” meant? How does that definition personally affect you?
- Pastor Matthew discussed Romans 12:1-2 in his message to emphasize that these important Scriptures clearly articulate God’s intention for each believer to give themselves “**fully**” to Him; holding nothing back. What was Pastor Matthew’s interpretation of these two key Scriptures? What is your personal understanding of these passages and how they fit in your spiritual life?
- What does it mean for a person to present themselves as a “*living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship?*” (Rom. 12:1). What type of commitment does it take to fully surrender to Christ with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?
- **READ and interpret Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37-39. Read Deuteronomy 26:12.** What is the very important emphasis Moses is declaring to the Hebrews in the Old Testament passages? What is the importance Jesus is declaring to the disciples in the Matthew 22:37-39 passages? Is there any correlation between the Old Testament and New Testament passages; what are they? In what way do all these Scriptures relate to Deuteronomy 26:10?
- **READ 1 Sam. 16:7 & Matt. 6:21.** What is Samuel telling us about the heart? What is Jesus telling us about the heart? Can people really deceive God by **pretending** to have a heart that is “sold-out” to Him when in reality they are “sold-out” to something else? Is it possible to worship God with the purity of your heart (Matt. 22:37), yet not give Him your “**First Fruits,**” your best, your finest that you have to offer HIM?
- Part of the act of worship is the giving of one’s best, finest, “First Fruits” to the Lord. In **Deut. 26:10**, Moses instructs the Hebrews to lay down their “first fruits” before the Lord and “*worship before the Lord your God.*” What did Pastor Matthew tell us what the word “Worship” means; what does it symbolize for the worshipper? What does it symbolize for you?
- Read the narrative in Genesis 4:1-7 about Cain and Abel and their “first fruit” offering of worship to God. Why did God accept Abel’s offering and reject Cain’s offering? What was the attitude of Abel’s heart and the attitude of Cain’s heart?