Welcome to The Eastside Vineyard Church!

You Have the Right to Remain Silent
Matthew 26:57-68
October 6, 2013

We want people to encounter God - not just “go to church.” That is why today’s 75-minute service will include an in-depth Bible teaching, communion, worship (feel free to stand or sit as we sing), and an opportunity to receive 1-on-1 prayer.

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Suggested Resources
Below is a list of resources that will help you dig deeper into the topic discussed this morning.

- Donald Kraybill - Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcends Tragedy ➔ this week’s “Pastor’s Pick”
- Richard Foster - Celebration of Discipline
- Greg Boyd - Repenting of Religion: Turning from Judgment to the Love of God
- Brian Zahnd - Unconditional? The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness
- Greg Boyd - Discomforted by the Silent Christ (audio)
  sermon from September 5, 2010. Available at whchurch.org
- John Ortberg - The Life You've Always Wanted

Suggested Bibles
We believe the Bible is the Word of God. In other words, God inspired human beings to write down exactly what He wanted to communicate to us. We teach from the Bible on Sundays and encourage you to read the Bible throughout the week. Here are a few recommended versions of it.

- NIV Study Bible
  The NIV Study Bible is the #1 bestselling study Bible in the world's most popular modern English Bible translation—the New International Version. It features a stunning four-color interior with full-color photographs, maps, charts, and illustrations. Plus, there are over 20,000 study notes, dozens on every page.

- The Action Bible
  This Bible might look like a “comic book” but it’s much more than that! This action-packed rendition of the world’s most awesome story will capture and draw you into all the excitement. Over 750 full-color pages, hand-drawn by a renowned artist of Marvel and DC comics. 215 action packed stories in chronological order.

- The Story for Children (A Storybook Bible)
  This isn’t just another collection of Bible stories -- it’s The Story -- the big picture of God’s enormous love for His children! It contains 48 pivotal stories from the Bible, showing how God has a great and grand and glorious vision, beginning with Creation and ending with the promise that Jesus is coming again. Each story is personalized with God’s Message and accompanied by vibrant illustrations that help bring the Bible to life for readers young and old.
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Dan Kopp (lead pastor - The Eastside Vineyard Church)

Notes:

Scripture Memory Verse:
But Jesus remained silent. - Matthew 26:63 (NIV)

Digging Deeper

In our fast-paced culture, it’s easy to be impacted by the sermon you hear at church on Sunday...only to forget about it by Monday. To make this message “stick” we created this Digging Deeper page. It contains questions related directly to today’s message, so that you can process and apply what you heard at church. Take some time this week to go through these questions by yourself, in your small group, with a friend, your roommate, or your spouse.

1. Icebreaker - Have you ever found yourself telling someone about something you saw on TV, but you felt the need to give a disclaimer like this: “I don’t watch much TV, but the other night...” What program were you watching? Why did you feel the need to give that disclaimer? Have fun with this question!

2. Is there anything you heard in this week’s sermon or experienced in this week’s service that was an “a ha” moment, something significant for you?

3. Think back to when you were growing up. Share a time when you were the victim of gossip, a false accusation, or were simply misunderstood... and what lengths you went to defend yourself. Share as much detail as you feel comfortable.

4. In Celebration of Discipline Richard Foster writes, “One reason we can hardly bear to remain silent is that it makes us feel so helpless. We are so accustomed to relying upon words to manage and control others. If we are silent, who will take control? God will take control, but we will never let him take control until we trust him. Silence is intimately related to trust.” What are your thoughts on this quote?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 (in both the NIV and NRSV translations). In The Life You’ve Always Wanted John Ortberg provides commentary on this passage: “Paul considered it a ‘very small thing’ in asking the Corinthians to back off. He did not say, ‘It is nothing.’ It still mattered to Paul what they thought of him -- but it didn’t matter much. Criticism no longer rocked his boat. His balance and his sense of well-being rested on acceptance from a higher court: ‘It is the Lord who judges me.’ Paul was not overly concerned about [accusations]. Imagine receiving criticism or judgment as a very small thing.” What are your thoughts on this quote?

6. Imagine if you lived by the principle of 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 and you fired your internal “Public Relations Department” that kicks in whenever you are the victim of gossip, a false accusation, or a misunderstanding? That you had supreme confidence in God, that He will bring the truth to light in His timing and that He is your judge and nobody else. Talk about how your life would be different if you lived this way.

7. Read Matthew 26:63. What is a situation you are in right now where you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to follow Jesus’ example and remain silent instead of defending yourself? Share as much information as you feel comfortable.