

Log & Speck

Matthew 7.1-6

Overview

- **Judge not, that you be not judged: Measuring Stick of a Judgmental Spirit (v 1-2)**
 - Judge not, that you be not judged is in reference to the kind of Judgment one would face if the spirit of the person is one of judgment:
 - This is seen in the verb “judge” as it is in the Present Active Form (i.e. ongoing)
 - Someone that is marked by being Judgmental, Critical, etc.
 - Jesus says that the measure you pronounce (judge) you will be measured with

- **The Problem: You don’t see the log in your own eye (v 3-5)**
 - We do not notice the log (sin) in our own eye when pointing out the speck (sin) in others
 - Judgmental Spirit reveals a lack of an awareness of personal sin
 - Therefore they don’t see the speck in others clearly (v 5)

- **The Solution: You must dig out the log in your eye and only then can you helpfully remove the speck in another’s eye (v 5)**
 - Important to note: Jesus doesn’t say the diagnosis is wrong, but the failure of applying the criticism to themselves that’s the problem:
 - “Judging” or providing an evaluation of sin in others is not condemned by Jesus:
 - Jesus assumes we will Judge in John 7.24
 - He calls us to live for the righteousness of God and His Kingdom just before in Matthew 6.33
 - If Jesus wanted to only affirm us in our sin why would He have needed to come and die?
 - Jesus provides the model for church discipline in Matthew 18.15-20, therein outlining the process for making an evaluation of a unrepentant sinner in the church
 - He still tells the person to remove the speck (v 5)
 - Only upon properly seeing ourselves as Greater sinners are we then able to help people others in their sin because we then see properly

- **Word that is Holy: Don’t be wasteful with the Words of God (v 6)**
 - Christ seems to be bracing his prior command regarding judgment by calling for discernment in the proclamation of the Gospel
 - For those who have no interest in the Gospel but only want to attack, it is best to not offer it all as they will only attack you with the Good News

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What are the thoughts of Christians in relation to Judging? What is accurate, what is not?*

1. What does Jesus mean in verses 1-2? (note the ongoing spirit of the verb ‘judge’)
2. Does Jesus mean to tell us that we can never make moral evaluations of others?
3. In what way are Christians going to still face judgment? (2 Cor. 5.10) How should this then serve to motivate us?
4. What does Jesus say is the ‘first’ thing we must do before removing the speck in others?

5. Describe how you have seen this lived out.
6. In what ways can you make it a habit of seeing the log in our own eye so that you can more helpfully remove the speck in others?
7. How does the Gospel inform this teaching both in its doctrine and its practice?
8. Provide some scenarios vs. 6 may be appropriate.

Accountability Question: *Where have you been encouraged in watching others do this well? What are some areas/people/places where you need encouragement to extend mercy instead of judgment?*