



## *Matthew 7:1-6 – Part 2*

Promoting Truth without  
a Spirit of Condemnation



# *Being critical is unbecoming and unhelpful (7:3-5)*

**Acknowledge the tendency to be blind to personal faults (3)** – <sup>3</sup> *Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*

- Our most critical assessment is usually of others first
  - Jesus does not teach that a “speck” is not a problem
  - The “log” represents substantive selfishness and sin that is disregarded
  - It is silly to point out the faults and failures of others when you have glaring faults and failures
    - 2 Samuel 12:1-13
- Problem: Humans have an uncanny ability to overlook personal sin and selfishness and pick out the faults in others, no matter how small they may be (“speck”)
- But what is even worse is we are typically blind to the more significant faults and failures in our own lives (“*but do not notice the log that is in your own eye*”)

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- The log that brings the greatest blindness is the log of self-righteousness
- This log is the result of losing Christ-centered gospel humility and others-oriented sensitivity
  - If we fail to focus on the grace of God in our need for personal spiritual growth, blindness can easily overtake us
    - 2 Peter 1:3-9
  - Being blind to our own faults and failures is unfruitful and extremely dangerous
  - Those who don't see their own faults and failures, and take them seriously, are desensitized to the authority and presence of Jesus
  - The result is personal criticism that is detached from Christ and resides in personal opinion

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**Blindness to personal sin is dangerous when correcting others (4)** – “<sup>4</sup> Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye?”

- The log exists because we don’t have a humble and teachable spirit
- Blindness to personal sin means blindness to the grace and mercy of God
  - The absence of desperate dependency on God’s grace is foolish hypocrisy
  - Our blind arrogance is apparent when we try to cleanse the sin-smears of others with the muddied hands of sinful self-righteousness
- When we fail to spend time with Jesus prayerfully examining our application of biblical truth, it results in comfort with personal sin and critical condemnation of others
  - Asking the Lord to reveal our sinful offenses should be a consistent practice
  - Such examination is to be part of personal and corporate worship
    - Psalm 139:23-24
  - This is the work the word of God is to do in us
    - James 1:23-24

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**Humbly deal with personal sin and then humbly help others (5)** – “<sup>5</sup> *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.*”

- The fact that we are told to avoid comparative condemnation does not mean that we have no responsibility toward a struggling brother or sister
- The pride of self-righteousness must be broken if we are going to help restore others
  - Luke 22:31-32
  - Psalm 51:10-13
- We will be the greatest help to others when we humbly establish a well-worn path to the cross
- It is from the understanding of our own weaknesses and sinful failures that we can best help others find the way to the resource of God’s amazing grace
  - We need to deal openly, honestly, and specifically with the sins in our lives
  - We will never acknowledge them before others if we do not confess them to God

# *It is not wise to attempt to instruct fools (7:6)*

**It is pointless to correct those who don't value the truth (7:6a)** – “<sup>6a</sup> *Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs*”

- Dogs were not pets, but unclean animals that roamed about as dangerous pests
- Pigs were unclean and ill-tempered animals that Jewish people totally avoided
- Jesus wants us to understand that there are people who do not value truth
- It is a waste of time and resources to attempt to instruct them
  - Proverbs 9:8–9
- God must give us and others humble and teachable hearts
  - Proverbs 12:15

# *It is not wise to attempt to instruct fools (7:6)*

**Unteachable people can be mean and nasty (7:6b)** – “<sup>6b</sup> lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you”

- People become unteachable and unapproachable because they refuse to acknowledge their sinfulness before God
  - They may be sin-calloused pagans
  - They may be self-righteous Pharisees
  - They may be self-absorbed, professing Christians
- People can go on an attack when provoked by the light of truth
  - Proverbs 23:9

# *Questions to Consider*

- How does the authority of Jesus Christ relate to dealing with sin?
- Why is confessing and forsaking sin in personal and corporate worship important?
- How prayerfully open is your heart before the pages and teaching of truth?
- How open is your heart to helping others deal with their failures and struggles?
- Some of you are trying to correct the unteachable. How do you know it is time to move on?



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