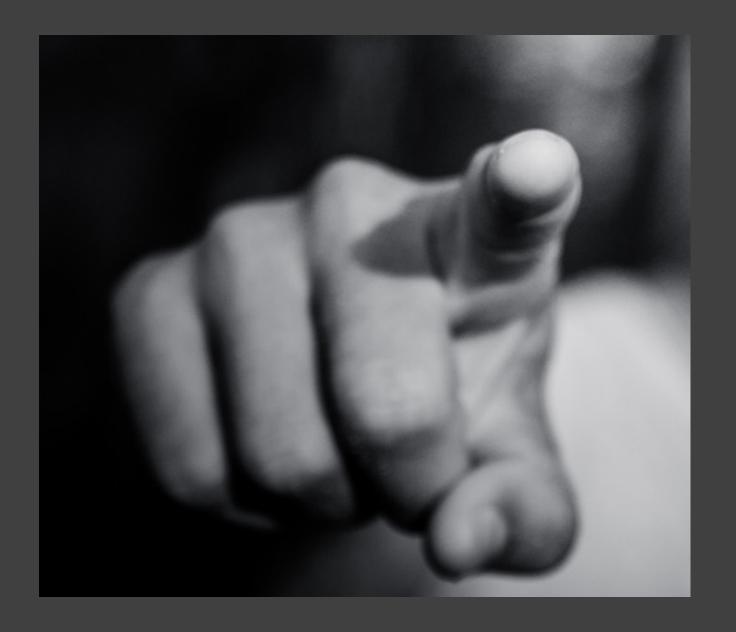
Matthew 7:1-6 - Part 2

Promoting Truth without a Spirit of Condemnation



Acknowledge the tendency to be blind to personal faults (3) – ³ 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")

- 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
 - o The result is personal criticism that is detached from Christ and resides in personal opinion

Blindness to personal sin is dangerous when correcting others (4) – "⁴ 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?"

- o The log exists because we don't have a humble and teachable spirit
- o 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

Humbly deal with personal sin and then humbly help others (5) – "⁵ 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) – "^{6a} 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
- o Pigs were unclean and ill-tempered animals that Jewish people totally avoided
- o 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
 - o Proverbs 12:15

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

Unteachable people can be mean and nasty (7:6b) – "6b 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
- o 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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