

“The Log and the Speck”
Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus warns us against a censorious spirit –

1. Jesus’ Warning concerning an Ugly Disposition of Heart **vv. 1-2**

(1) What is not meant: The elimination of all judgement! *“Judge not,
that you be not judged.”*

- cf. Civil judgments
- Proper judgment according to the Word of God

(2) What *is* meant

- A self-righteous judgment (judgment without mercy!)
- An undue eagerness to judge
- A hypocritical or disingenuous attitude of heart

Professing to want to help a brother when one is really taken up with what is wrong!
Judging by a false and hypocritical standard.

(3) The error: A Refusal or Failure to apply the Word of God to one’s own life first!

(4) The liability *“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged;
and with the measure you use,
it will be measured back to you.”*

- One who judges without mercy
will be judged without mercy!
- All such falseness and hypocrisy will bring a much more severe judgement!

2. Jesus’ Illustrates this Ugly Disposition **vv. 3-5**

(1) Posture *“And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye,
but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”*

- “why do you gaze at the speck...”
- All taken up with the speck!
- Approaching a brother *looking for the things that are wrong*, whether real or imagined!

(2) Proportion “the speck” vs. “the plank”

- The hypocrisy and ungodly attitude are far-and-away more offensive to God!
- There are few things more ungodly than hypocrisy and a critical spirit!

(3) Blindness *“First remove the plank from your own eye,
and then you will see clearly...”*

- Hypocrisy renders one blind
- One who has not honestly examined himself by the Word of God is blind to his own sin!

(4) Offense

- Though the one possessed of a critical, censorious spirit is curiously blind to it,
it is painfully obvious to everyone else!

(5) Liability

- The removal of a speck is a very *delicate* procedure! Access must be granted!
- The “hypocrite” is the one least qualified to remove it!
- The would-be “patient” reads this attitude immediately!

(6) Remedy *“Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye,
and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye!”*

- Repent of your hypocrisy!
- Apply the Word of God to yourself first!

This alone renders one qualified to help another!