

Learning from the Sermon on the Mount #34
“Dangerous Self-Protection”
Message Notes, October 10, 2021

Review: Internal Focus—Charity, Prayer, Fasting, Anxiety

Natural Result of Anxiety: Comparison, Judgment

Matthew 7:1-6 (NIV)

¹“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”³ “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. ⁶ “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

Tendency: Put distance between ourselves and the other person. I am right, the other person is wrong. Christians assume Jesus is on my side.

Judge (*krino*): to choose; to prefer, to distinguish; to approve or esteem; to determine or resolve; to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong; to pronounce judgment as in court

Matthew 7:1 (Message) “Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults

Measure: grace and truth—measure me with grace, but others with truth. How does Jesus treat me? Tend to be critical of things in others that we tend to dislike about or feel ashamed about in ourselves.

Jesus’ parable—speck of sawdust, plank

- Both come from wood (related); Jesus was a carpenter
- Humor is important!
- Plank distorts our vision...we see something in the other that is really in ourselves

- Admit our own problem (the plank)—how does Jesus treat us when we admit our problem? With grace or truth? How does he deal with our plank? Forgiveness and acceptance. Because we know that He loves and forgives us, we are able to address the truth (plank) about ourselves.

- After we have dealt with our own plank, we can actually help the other person deal with the sawdust with humility and empathy/compassion. We can build a bridge using our plank experience to connect with the other’s sawdust.

Matt 18:15-17 (NIV) ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”

Jesus’ parable—dogs and pigs, two interpretations:

- Do we see the other person as a dog/pig—more humility.
- Do they seem like dog/pig—not right timing to talk with them

Conclusion

1. What is the plank in your eye? Hint: It may be related to something that annoys you about other people.
2. How can you help someone else using your plank experience?