

SEEING CLEARLY

We are wrapping up our summer series discussing the Kingdom of God. Today we look at the question of how do I deal with the pain of others? If we truly are to bear each other's burdens how do we approach this?

Jesus in Matt 7 addresses this very subject...

Matthew 7:1-6 ...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. (NIV)**

Q. Why did Jesus tell us "Do not judge..."

Judgement is Final...

- It has a verdict...
- It's fact driven...
- Judgement pronounces sentence...
- Judgement requires no relationship but relies on sequester and secrecy from relationship to render its verdict without influence from the person in question...
- Judgement assumes superiority of position
- Judgement requires incarceration
- Judgement leads to condemnation

Greek translation for "Do not judge"

Do not stand in the place of God, do not pronounce eternal damnation upon others.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Q How do we help others without making a value judgement on whether a **legitimate speck exists**

Enter discernment ...

Webster's definition has two different versions... one secular and one Christian

Secular: The ability to judge well- this includes

Christian discernment only exists with the absence of judgment

TCC- Kingdom only exists in the confines of the "Absence of Judgement"... with restoration as its aim

Discernment requires kingdom alignment

Discernment is: a gift of the Holy Spirit... (1 Corinthians 12:10)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit IS God. He's not a junior version of God. Therefore, discernment's mission is always redemptive in nature.

Everything born of the Spirit is designed to seek and save us...

Galatians 6:1 – Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently... (NIV)

Seeing clearly...There is a self-examination

... First take the plank out of your own eye... then you will see clearly

Seeing clearly

- Evaluate our attitude towards the person
- Evaluate our motive in pointing out the speck
- Evaluate our timing
- Evaluate our relationship

When we remove our own beam... **we align** our lives with **His heart** for a person and properly **discern** their specks and issues.

Discernment sees people first

- The woman at the well
- Zacchaeus the tax collector
- The woman caught in adultery
- The thief on the cross

This is never about the speck or the log it is truly about people. TCC- lets always lead people to Jesus