

FIRST REMOVE

Today we continue our series entitled The Seven Firsts of Jesus. In the book of Matthew, Jesus outlines seven spiritual firsts that are core values for every believer to build their lives upon.

Last week we looked Matthew 6:33 – Seek **FIRST** His Kingdom and His righteousness...

- It's all about aligning our hearts with His.

This week we look at... **FIRST remove the beam out of your own eye then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye...**

To understand this verse, we must look at the greater context of the passage.

Matthew 7:1-5 – “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 would Jesus tell us “Do not judge”

Judgement is:

- Final.
- It has a fact-driven verdict. Judgement pronounces sentence.
- Judgement requires no relationship, in fact it relies on sequester from relationship or contact to render its verdict without undo influence.
- Judgement assumes superiority of position.
- Judgement requires incarceration and leads to condemnation of a person.
- Judgement is a product of the law based on our sin and the old covenant.

TCC- When we give our lives to Jesus Christ we recognize the fact that Jesus took our punishment and condemnation on Himself, thus removing judgement from our lives.

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

So what is Jesus talking about when He says... then you will see clearly to remove the beam

I believe the answer to this is found in the term DISCERNMENT.

About discernment:

Secular: The ability to judge well-

- in the world must include judgement and all the encumbrances and conclusions we just cited

(in Christian contexts) perception in **the absence of judgment** with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding:

- Statement: "without providing for a time of healing and discernment, there will be no hope of living through this present moment without a shattering of our common life"

Notice there is a distinction between the secular definition which starts and ends with judgement and the definition given in Christian Context...

Discernment: Becomes the New Testament standard for us with the lives of others

Discernment requires alignment

... FIRST take the plank out of your own eye...

There is a **rightness of heart** required for true discernment to take place

- A rightness of intention ...Of motive

Repentance and self-examination... paves the way to **see clearly**

GREEK- thoroughly," focus intensifies—to see *accurately, comprehend* the spiritual (moral) meaning behind the physical – "looking *through, penetrating*"

Repentance is never a bad thing... First remove... **Leads to seeing clearly**

Seeing clearly...There is a self-examination

- Evaluate our attitude
- Evaluate our motive
- Evaluate our timing
- Evaluate our relationship

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

Discernment is redemptive in nature

...Then you will see clearly

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

- Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ
 - The Holy Spirit is God
 - Therefore discernment's mission is always, ultimately redemptive

Everything borne of the Spirit is redemptive

- Always promotes relationship... Restoration and renewal
 - Aim is Hope and healing
 - Life and abundant living
 - People first – specks and beams second

Discernment denotes relationship... with God and with others

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)

- A person who is Spirit-led will restore
- A person who is Spirit-led will be gentle and sensitive to the person in need
- A person who is Spirit-led will recognize it's a brother or a sister in Christ

When Jesus Criticized the Pharisees it was not for their efforts to keep the law or for their devotion to the lord... but for the heavy burden they demanded of others...

TCC – They exalted the rules and forgot the people those rules were to guide

Discernment is people first

So now you can see clearly to help the person in need first

- The woman at the well
- Zaccheus
- The woman who was to be stoned

This is never about the speck or the log it is truly about people first

TCC – let's always lead people to Jesus!