The Speck and the Beam

Ken Chapman · Matthew 7:1–5

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is a great teacher because of the subject matter that he taught. But he taught with sternness, didn't he?
- But he also taught with love and compassion. And that makes him our favorite teacher. But do you realize that Jesus also taught with humor?
- That's a story of humor, sternness, and compassion all wrapped into one.

1 Misunderstood on Two Opposite Extremes

Matthew 7:1–6; Matthew 7:15–16; James 4:11–12

- It's misunderstood on two opposite extremes. We might say that it's misunderstood by those outside and those inside.
- The truth lies somewhere in the middle. The Bible does say that we are to be discerning.
- Do not judge, which in fact are really talking about the method of judging, not judging itself.
- First remove the plank from your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's. It doesn't say leave the speck in there, does it?
- Who are you to judge another? And so both extreme understandings of our passage in Matthew 7 are wrong.

2 The Most Effective Form of Judging Is Judging Ourselves

Romans 2:1; Romans 2:21–23

- The most effective form of judging is when we judge ourselves.
- It has to be a metaphor of some glaring inconsistencies, some glaring thing wrong, some big sin that you're unaware of.
- Therefore you're inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another, you condemn yourself. For you who judge practice the same things.
- Maybe there's times when we are just rank hypocrites because we're doing the same thing.
- Maybe the beam was the sin of ungrateful forgetfulness.
- Imagine how much better we would be at this thing called Christianity if we expended as much energy judging and correcting ourselves as we do judging and correcting others.

3 How Do You Remove a Speck?

John 8:1–11

- Once you've done that, then go to your brother and address the speck that is in his eye. He doesn't say leave that speck in that eye.

- Then those who heard it being convicted by their conscience. It was then, and only then, that they caught a glimpse of the beam in their own eye.
- Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.
- How do you remove a speck? Gently. Gently. And carefully. And compassionately.
- Jesus showed us not just by word but by his actions. And here Jesus is removing a speck from someone's eye.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **When you look into the light of God's word, what do you see? Do you see a speck or a beam? There's probably something there that needs to be corrected.**

MY NOTES