

Matthew 7:4

Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?

I love my kids and try my best to raise them in a Godly way.

† **Proverbs 22:6** *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

And part of raising kids is to let them know what is good that they should be doing, and what is bad that they shouldn't be doing, and don't we all try to do that as parents? Now some things are no brainers that we really don't have to tell them, like not to kill someone, or don't rob a bank, or don't drive the wrong way on a one-way street.

But what if I tell my kids not to smoke, which sounds like wise counsel (and it is). But even if I don't smoke, yet I drink, do drugs, watch "R" or "X" rated movies, cuss, party, etc.... Would they listen to me, or think that dad is crazy when he is telling me not to smoke when he does all those other bad things, even though he doesn't smoke. It reminds me of what Jesus said about the scribes and the Pharisees.

† **Matthew 23:1-3** *Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do."*

It also reminds me of today's devotional verse: *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?*

Because if I got drunk, did drugs, watched "R" or "X" rated movies, cussed, partied, etc.... and told my kids not to smoke, then I would be trying to remove the speck from their eye, yet I have a huge log in my own eye.

Now I used to do a lot of those things and even worse, yet the Lord has removed those logs (sins) from my eye, therefore I can tell my kids not to do them, and I can teach them about the speck in their eye when they do something wrong, because I used to have that same speck that hurt me and others.

But that's just our kids, but what Jesus is teaching us goes beyond our kids. Because if you are telling people something about the speck in their eye, and they are not listening to you, could the reason be that you have this huge log in your own eye?

Paul addressed this with the Romans when he wrote to them:

† **Romans 2:21-23** *You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?*

Maybe we don't do the same thing, but do we tell someone things that they are doing are wrong, yet we are doing way worse things that are wrong?

Maybe it's the whole judging thing that you are thinking here, and it should be, because Jesus starts this teaching that leads up to today's devotional verse with, ***"Judge not, that you be not judged."*** **Matthew 7:1**

Think of it this way. It's not bad to warn someone when they are doing something wrong. If my friend were drunk and he wanted to drive home, I would not be judging him by telling him he is too drunk to drive, because he could hurt or kill someone or get thrown in jail if he does. I would be telling him for his own protection.

But if he were drunk and I told him that he was going to hell because he was drunk, I have now become a judge and not a friend, because a friend warns a friend when they are doing something against God's word or doing something that would harm him or herself, but not judging their eternity.

So how do we do this speck, log, eye, thingy then?

I think it's pretty simple. My teenage kids know that I do not smoke, drink, watch "R" or "X" rated movies. I don't go to bars or party, I am a good hard worker, I don't lie and do the best I can to help others, yet even though I am still far from perfect, they learn by these things that they see me not doing, and they also learn by the things that they see me doing, like pray, read the bible everyday, go to church, be involved in the church...

So instead of trying to remove the speck from someone else's eye, why not focus on the log in your own eye. Then as they see you with no log in your eye (living a Christian life) they will want to do the same and allow Jesus to remove the speck from their own eye, just as the Holy Spirit is working in you, He is working in their lives as well.

† **Titus 3:4-7** *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

† **Hebrews 9:14** *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*