

RelationSHIFT

MESSAGE:

CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU WRECK YOURSELF

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 7: 3-5 ESV

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to convey the importance of real self-care, which goes beyond surface-level activities and treatments. It emphasizes the need for a transformation of the heart through faith in Jesus Christ, highlighting how true self-care involves addressing the deeper spiritual, emotional, and mental aspects of our being. The message encourages the recipients to seek a new heart and Spirit from God in Christ Jesus, to find rest and transformation through Christ, and to live a life guided by God's word and God's Spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Imagine going to the ophthalmologist to receive care for your eyes. You complete the initial registration, get assigned a room, and then find out that the ophthalmologist assigned to you is blind. The first thought that comes to mind is, "How can you provide care for my eyes when you are unable to truly see from your own?" Friend, this illustration gives us a picture of one who has a spirit of pride. Interestingly, a spirit of pride will influence you with a set of lenses called self-righteousness, which are tinted to see flaws in others, but not the pride in self. This instance is even worse than the blind leading the blind, because in this instance, the blind is the one in place to help others see clearer, and it is a spirit of pride that can influence one to think that they should be involved in the business of removing a speck out of someone else's eye, when in fact, there is a log in their eye. This spirit of pride manifests itself in several ways. It manifests itself as self-righteousness, a feeling of superiority, and disposition that self is right

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while others are not. Alongside this, there is a tendency to despise others, and to hold them in contempt. One that has the spirit of pride finds pleasure in hearing something unpleasant about someone and delights in their downfall. Furthermore, a critical part of this spirit is hypercriticism—not just criticism, but hypercriticism. Hypercriticism, delighting in giving criticism, criticizing everything to find faults, even hoping to find faults.

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When this spirit is active in our relationships, it never leads one to build up a person, but it always leads one to tear down. This spirit of pride is not of God and does not come from God.

This spirit leads to the destruction of self, and hence, even relationships.

It blocks self from blessings.

It blocks self from peace.

It blocks self from giving, receiving, and experiencing love.

It blocks self from God and God's Spirit.

It blocks self from salvation.

It blocks self from truly seeing themselves.

It blocks self from the help and healing that is truly needed.

You know, there is often something hurting or broken within when one has a prideful spirit, and the spirit of pride serves as the band-aid to cover the wound, but not heal the wound; to cover the brokenness, but not heal the brokenness. To cover the pain, but not heal the pain. And ultimately, that covering is a mask called hypocrisy.

In the times of Jesus, the Pharisees, who were some of the religious leaders, were the ones who were wearing this mask.

And one day, Jesus told a story about these Pharisees recorded by Luke in what we know to be chapter 18 verse 9-14, and I'll only tell you part of it.

Luke starts off telling us in verse 9, "Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else."

Now, without hearing any of this story, doesn't this story sound like it is going to include a character or characters in it that has this spirit of pride that I have just mentioned?

Here's part of the story, verse 10-12: "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters,

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sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'

Friend, we hear the heart of the Pharisees, and the pride that is bleeding from it when we learn they look down on cheaters, sinners, adulterers, and think themselves superior in righteousness and worth because they fast twice a week, and give a tenth of their income. Interestingly enough, they saw the sin in other people's lives, but they did not see the pride in their own life. Or, as Jesus puts it metaphorically, they saw the specks in other people's eyes, but had a log in their own eye!

And this is how pride operates:
It blinds you in a sense, leaving you to only see little specks in the eyes of other people.
The little specks of sin in other people.
The little error in someone else's life.
The little flaw, or flaws that someone else has.
The little mistake that your wife made.
The little imperfection that your husband made.
The little mistake that your child or children made.
Pride allows you to see the little speck in other people's eyes, but not the log that is in yours.

It allows you to see the sin in others, but not the pride in self.

And honestly church, this spirit of pride still operates today, which is why we should assume that Jesus is also talking to us as well when he says, "you hypocrite" in verse 5. Be not offended when Jesus calls you a hypocrite here, because when he calls you a hypocrite, he is calling the spirit of pride out of you so that His Holy Spirit may reside in you. May his words sink to your hearts because his words are good for your souls and will save you from yourself and the pride that does not truly have your best interest at heart.

Pride goes before destruction, Proverbs 16:18.
Pride is more detrimental to self and our relationships than almost anything.
God opposes the prideful, James 4:6.

And get this: this form of sin is more detrimental than the sins and faults that are pointed out in others! Listen to what Jesus says again in verse three through 5:
"3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out

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of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Did you hear what he said?

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your sister's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your wife's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your husband's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of the mother of your children's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of the father of your children's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your children's eye.

Take the log out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to take the speck out of someone else's eye.

You see, when you have that spirit of pride on you, Jesus compares it to having a log in your eye, but he says that the one you're judging only has a speck in their eye, because the truth of the matter is pride is a

deeper issue than the flaws you point out in other people! The mistakes and flaws you point out in other people are nothing but a little speck in their eye when compared to a spirit that is in you, which is like a log. And that's why Jesus said, you need to deal with that pride in you first! You need to deal with that spirit that is in you first!

In other words, face yourself honestly, and admit to yourself the truth about yourself! Examine your attitude towards other people. Face the truth about yourself.

Take the statements you make or think about another person.

Sit down and analyze them and ask yourself what you really mean.

It will be a very painful and distressing process, but if we examine ourselves and our judgments and our pronouncements honestly and truly, we are on the high road to getting the log out of our eye.

You are on a high road to casting out that spirit that is within us!

Having done that, you shall be so humbled that you will see how sinful you really are, and it is then that you can also truly see Jesus the Christ, who is a savior, and deliverer from all forms of bondage!

He will save your soul and make you whole!

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And once that log gets removed out of your eye, it is then that you can help others with the speck in their eye!

When the log gets removed out of your eye and you receive the ministry of reconciliation from God in Christ Jesus, you can go and share that message of reconciliation with others!

When the log gets removed out of your eye and you truly see yourself, you will never judge anyone else in the wrong way!

Your gospel will not be a message of accusation and condemnation from Satan, but your gospel will be a message of reconciliation and restoration in Christ Jesus!

Friend, Check Yourself Before You Wreck Yourself.