

BE CAREFUL IN YOUR JUDGEMENTS

Matthew 7:1-5 “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 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? 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? 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.

Do you remember as a child someone saying to you “When you point one finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back to you?” When it comes to sin, there is plenty to go around. Before pointing out to another person their sin it would be good to remember Romans 3:23, “. . .all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Solomon had the same message in Ecclesiastes 7:20, “there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.” Obviously, this means that you too are a sinner.

On several occasions Jesus addressed the issue of pointing out the sins of others such as in Luke 6:37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. . .” and in Matthew 7:1 “Judge not, that you be not judged.” In Matthew 7 Jesus told a parable to sharpen His point, “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.”

Jesus’ words are concerned with how we deal with the sins we commit as well as with those of our brother or sister. Before we look for sins in others, or deal with another person’s sin, it is important we first recognize that we too are sinners. Even though we may not commit the sin we see them commit, we have ones we commit that are equally condemned by God. The bottom-line regarding sin is their wage is death. (Romans 6:23)

It is therefore important that we first recognize our own sins, confess them to our heavenly Father, ask Him to help us turn away from our sinful behavior and ask for His forgiveness for Jesus’ sake. After doing this, we are then ready and able to help our brother or sister by leading them through God’s word to see their sin(s),

encourage them to confess, repent and seek God's forgiveness for themselves through Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, Savior wash away, all that I have done wrong today. Use me to help others to know you died for the forgiveness of their sins that they may receive the gift of everlasting life. In Your name. Amen.

As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
Far from Your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?

Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.

A feast of love for us You are preparing;
We who were lost, You give an honored place!
“Come, eat; come drink, and be no more despairing—
Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”
(LSB 612)