

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

SELF AWARENESS

Luke 6:41- 42 “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? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

Self-awareness, knowledge of your own character, morals, values, good traits and bad is not always easy. The lens through which you see yourself is critical to what you will see. The same is true concerning how you see the character, morals, values, good and bad traits of another person.

Jesus in today’s devotional verses uses a teaching device that is fairly blunt. How can you possibly try to take a small piece of sawdust out of someone else’s eye when you have a fairly large splinter in your own. Since that splinter causes your eye to water, hurt, lose focus and make you miserable, common sense says you must first remove the splinter from your eye before your eye will be able to focus and concentrate on removal of the very small piece of sawdust in another person’s eye.

You probably realize Jesus is using this language concerning the judgments you make regarding others. His counsel is, first examine your own moral, ethical and spiritual life through the lens of the Ten Commandments to see the sins that have possession of your heart and soul. Once you are led by the Holy Spirit to see your sins for what they are, confess and repent to God seeking his forgiveness for Jesus’ sake, then you are ready to properly deal with the sins of others.

In essence Jesus is saying clean your own house before you criticize your neighbor for how they take care of theirs. When you have your spiritual house in order then your words and actions of concern for your neighbor can be effective in assisting them to see their own sins and the forgiveness Jesus has earned and won for them.

Prayer: Lord, open up the eyes of my heart to my own sins and the forgiveness that is mine through Christ Jesus my Savior. In His name. Amen.

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depts of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way,
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.
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