



**"Parable of the Speck vs. the Log in your Eye!"**

**Matthew 7:1-6 / John 7:24**

- Jesus gives a Parable about living an accountable life. Our culture screams out "Don't ever judge me!", yet the Bible is very clear that we are to hold each other accountable!
- A culture that doesn't care about others is where this comes from! It actually started in Genesis 4 when Cain murdered his brother Abel! He sinned and didn't care!
- **Genesis 4:8-10**
- **Verse 9** – **"I don't know, Cain responded, 'Am I my brother's guardian/keeper?'"**
- When Cain said "I don't know", he actually lied to God! He knew! He was a murderer!
- But, it's the **ATTITUDE of Cain's heart** here, and the way that he talks to God that is the same as our culture today! "Leave me alone!" / "I don't know and I don't care!"
- What Cain failed to realize is that accountability is not complex...it just requires that YOU take responsibility! Responsibility to listen to God, others and then choose what's right!
- **Genesis 4:7** – Cain did not want to follow God's way! He was warned! He did not listen!

**1. There are times that God will use YOU to speak into other people's lives for accountability!**

- **Matthew 18:15** – **"IF he or she LISTENS to you...you have WON them back."**
- The entire key to keeping yourself accountable in this life is to actually LISTEN to what the other person is saying! They may be right or they may be wrong! It could simply be a misunderstanding. But, in order to know you must listen!
- **Matthew 18:15** – **"If another believer sins *against you*...you go privately and point out the sin."**
- **Here is the issue...you must be the person who actually sees it firsthand.** This is not a "second hand information thing!" and then you take it upon yourself!
- **Why?** Because it is very cowardly of people to see a sin or offense, and then tell someone else about it so that they do not have to be the person to go deal with it! **This is not how this works! You don't pass the buck!**
- Have the courage to go to the person if you are the one who witnessed it or was sinned against! Remember, the Scriptures are clear **"sin against you...you go privately"**
- **When you go to the person, you are going because they did something against you.** The REASON for this is so that the sin or offense does not take someone down a worse path!
- And, so that you can get through it and let it go...**not become bitter.**

- **Psalm 19:12-13** – Sin will take you farther than you ever wanted to go!
- Love that person enough to go to them! But, again, this is only if it is a sin against you!

## **2. Before you do Matthew 18:15...make sure that you live out Matthew 7:1-6 first!**

- **The speck in an eye vs. the log in an eye!**
- **Matthew 7:1-6**
- This shows that we definitely are supposed to hold one another accountable! You even see it in **verse 16**! But, look at the point...
- **Before you go to someone else** about their sin or offense...you better 100% check your life and heart first! *If not...you are being a total hypocrite!*
- You look like a fool if you do this wrong! Jesus says “a log in your own eye!”
- **Illustration: Pool Noodle!** What I’m about to do makes me look like a fool! But, this is exactly the point of Jesus! You look like a fool when you go to someone else like this! // You can’t see, and you are hitting and hurting everyone else around!
- **Do a heart check before you go talk to someone else! Examine your own life!**

## **3. If they do not listen to you then take a few witnesses!**

- **Matthew 18:16**
- This does not mean that you gossip to those people about what happened. Telling the facts from a heart that is hurt **vs.** telling them the juicy gossip is WAY different!
- Gossip is the Devil’s radio and you become his DJ!
- Hopefully, the person listens to you and the Christian friends that are present.
- If they do not listen on this 2<sup>nd</sup> step...then Jesus gives one more chance for them!

## **4. The third try is when you bring it before the church!**

- **Matthew 18:17**
- Now, please understand this...if it’s a bad deal from the get go...get your Church Leaders immediately! **Why?** The ripple effects can be very damaging and quick if not!
- But, please understand, that the heart of Jesus and His set-up here is for YOU to go directly to the person FIRST! Not for you to go to someone else! That is not what Jesus taught.
- **The Church Leadership is there as the last safety net!** If the person fails to listen then, look at what Jesus Himself says to do to that person or people...**Verse 17.**
- You give them over to their own sin and stubbornness, and pray that they will somehow, in some way, come back to Christ with a humble heart!

**Closing:** There is one thing that you cannot ever control...If the person will not meet or talk!

- **If they decide this...that’s on them!** You must be able to walk away and not allow it to become bitterness in you! (You can’t fix it if they don’t come to you!)
- **“What if YOU are the person who has sinned, and someone comes to you?”** *Are you willing to listen, be humble and do?*
- **1 Peter 2:1** nails it this morning for us all! Don’t be a hypocrite in dealing with others!
- *You can’t control what another person does...but you can control what you do!*