

## THE STARTING PLACE FOR CORRECTIONS

Lk. 6:39-45

We tend to be excellent observers.

That's the more reason why very often, we know of people out there who could make the world a better place by simply changing their own lives.

### EXAMPLES:

- a) That woman at the office, **"if only she would just stop gossiping,"** there would be far less friction in the workplace.
- b) My supervisor // Boss **if only he would just learn to say 'please' and 'thank you',** my job would be so much easier.
- c) My wife, **"if she would just stop her constant complaining,"** home life would be so much better.
- d) My husband, **"if he could just be a little more thoughtful,"** our home would be a happier place.

**Q: How often do we find ourselves making remarks like these about people out there?**

Somehow, deep down, we are convinced that with a few corrections, those others could improve the quality of life for everyone around them.

## OVERLOOKING OUR FAULTS

Jesus knew that most people **stood ready** and **felt qualified** to help others make those corrections but that they overlooked their own faults.

That's why he spoke about a man who offered to help another man get a speck out of his eye.

- ❖ The whole problem was that this **"would-be helper"** failed to notice or chose to ignore the plank in his own eye.

For this reason Jesus says: **"Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own?!"**

Jesus addresses this problem by telling the man **to start** with himself,

- ❖ **"Take the plank out of your eye first then you will see clearly to take the splinter that is in your brother's eye"**

Jesus is not saying that we should ignore other people's faults but that in the first place we should not overlook or sugar coat our own!

For, we are **far too quickly ready** to perform a **"splinter surgery"** on others

- while being half blind,
- while we ourselves are in the worse position

If we want to help other people we need to have our feet on the ground, fully aware of our own gifts and limitations.

We need to concentrate on eradicating our own sins and blemishes.

- Otherwise we shall only be seeking to invest and feast on the failings of others.

**Q: How so often do we stop at thinking the problem is**

- our spouse, or
- our neighbour, or
- our brother or sister, when all the while, the bigger problem is really with me.

Jesus is calling on each one of us not to be masters at the art of deceiving ourselves.

## ADAM & EVE

You know, this trend goes back a long way, in fact, all the way to the Garden of Eden.

**NB:** When Adam and Eve got into trouble God asked Adam,

- Q: **"Have you eaten the forbidden fruit?"**

Then Adam blamed his wife. **"It wasn't really my fault. Eve caused the whole thing."**

Then God confronted Eve, and she said **it wasn't her fault**, the serpent was to blame.

❖ This passing of the **buck** has been going on since the dawn of creation.

That's why Jesus today is driving in a different direction: looking at ourselves as the source of the problem.

The starting place for correction is not so much out there, the starting point is right inside of me and Jesus wants each one of us to do something about it.

God help us!