

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: ***“Watch The Planks”***

v. 41 “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?”

v. 42 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.

SCRIPTURE Luke 6: 39- 49 (NIV)

39 He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?”

40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

41 “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?”

42 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.

43 “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.”

44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.

48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

I. Key Words:

- Watch
- Planks
- Specks

II. People, Places, & Time:

III. Background:

Luke 6:41 & 42 uses the vivid imagery of a person with a large "beam" in their eye trying to remove a "speck" from someone else's eye to teach about hypocrisy and self-examination.

It means one should address their own significant faults (the beam) before attempting to correct others' minor faults (the speck).

This parable warns against being quick to judge others while overlooking one's own greater sins, emphasizing the need for personal integrity and humility before offering guidance.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis #1: We have difficulty seeing the planks.

Clear perception of life is important in the Christian life.

Anything that will hinder our spiritual vision is a problem.

Jesus describes these impairments to vision as being "specks" or "planks."

The primary difference in the two is their size.

Both of them would cause a great deal of pain to the eye, and both would obviously impair vision.

A. What is the plank?

The plank is identified as being a critical, censorious spirit.

Meaning that a person is motivated or inclined to look for and point out faults and defects in someone else's life and not take notice of their own.

It is believed that this is a greater hindrance to spiritual perception than many of the things that it would label as being sinful.

This kind of spirit in people makes one want to withdraw from their presence to avoid them.

B. Why is it difficult to see?

The difficulty is caused by human pride.

While it would seem that anything so obvious would be quickly seen, human pride blinds us to the reality about ourselves.

This is especially true of spiritual pride, or pride of grace.

It is the most offensive of the different forms of pride and the most common among the disciples.

Such pride will blind us to the truth about ourselves.

2. Lesson Emphasis #2: Removal of the planks is a painful process.

A. The sensitivity of the spirit.

Just as a speck or plank might get into the eye, so spiritual specks or planks can get into a person's spirit.

Surely Jesus uses the eye for his illustration because of its special sensitivity.

Even a little speck of dust in the eye can become a painful and blinding problem.

The very nature of the human spirit will make it a painful process to extract a plank from one's life.

B. The strength of the plank.

Jesus surely chose the plank to call attention to its size and seriousness.

A plank is a much greater threat to the well-being of the eye than a small speck.

Furthermore, its removal will be much more painful.

Personal holiness does not come cheap.

It comes only to those who are willing to undergo the pain of removing the planks.

Lives that reflect godly character have been willing to undergo the painful process of removing the planks.

3. Lesson Emphasis #3: The removal of the planks prepares us to help others.

We do have friends who have specks in their eyes, and they need our ministry & help.

They need someone to help them extract these bothersome things from their lives.

They will probably never be able to get them out without some help.

Jesus says, "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" (Luke 6:42 NIV).

The word "hypocrisy" comes from the Greek word hypokrisis (ὑπόκρισις), which means "acting on the stage" or "pretending".

The word is a combination of hypo- (ὑπό), meaning "under," and krinein (κρίνω), meaning "to sift" or "decide".

In ancient Greece, an actor (hypokrites) would perform "under a mask" or respond to other actors.

The qualities needed to help others are developed as we go through the painful process of developing personal holiness in our own lives.

A. Humility is developed.

Dealing with the plank in your life humbles you.

It develops in you a proper perspective on yourself and others.

Galatians 6:1 instructs believers to restore with a spirit of gentleness anyone who has been caught in a sin, while also being mindful of their own potential for temptation.

This requires a gentle, humble approach rather than a harsh or judgmental one, with the goal of helping that person get back on the right path.

The verse emphasizes the importance of a supportive community, even as it warns against pride and self-deception.

That "spirit of meekness" is the humility that comes as you rid your life of the planks.

B. Understanding is developed.

If you remove planks from your life, you will know the pain a brother or sister is feeling as you help them get the speck out of his life.

Such understanding gives you the capacity to weep with those who weep.

C. Faith is developed.

As God enables you to remove the offensive plank from your life, your confidence in his ability to help your brother or sister with their problem will be greatly increased.

You will be able to approach him with a whole new outlook.

You will be able to give greater encouragement as you bear witness to God's "plank-removing" power.

God has a special school for spiritual ophthalmologists.

He teaches them how to remove specks by letting them practice on themselves.

They learn how to deal with the problems of others by dealing first with their own problems.

You will not be qualified to minister to others until you have dealt with your own problems successfully.

V. Make It Happen

- What's hindering your spiritual vision in your life?
- What is a plank?
- What's the primary difference between a plank and a speck, which causes the greatest disruption to the Christians life?
- What prohibits you from seeing the specks and planks in your life?
- Why is it important to remove planks and spec from your life and what benefit does removal provide us?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?

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