

Text: Matt. 7:1-6 **Title:** Specks & Logs

INTRO: Worst sinner you know. Most sinful. You know too much about them, you know some of the things they've done, said, felt and even said. This person is in need of so much prayer, because they're not going to change or be different on their own. They're desperately in need of God's mercy, grace forgiveness and love. They need God to grant repentance, because they're blind to their own sin and are in deep denial about much of their own problems and struggles. You know that if God were to ever hold us accountable for what we've done, this person would have absolutely no chance of acceptance into His kingdom. How could God even welcome someone like that? Forgive someone like that? Love someone like that?

TRAN: My hope for this sermon, is that after looking at Jesus's teaching about judging others., your approach to that person that you're thinking about right now, would change. That you would think about them differently, treat them differently, talk about them differently, pray for them differently and more often, show them more grace, be more patient with them, have really hope that they might change, and see the power of the Gospel as big enough to bring of about really difference in their life, all for Jesus's glory.

THESIS: *"The more we believe the Gospel of Jesus, the more it changes how we judge others and ourselves."*

I. You're not the Just Judge (1-2)

- A. Only God is a perfectly righteous and just judge.
- B. He's all-knowing, all-righteous, all-true, all-just, all-patient, all-merciful, all-loving.
- C. When we judge (condemn, punish, avenge, criticize, etc.), we can't do non-bias.
- D. We usually judge others based on a criteria that we don't actually live up to.
 - 1. **Driving** - Sometimes I don't use my blinker, speed, cut people off, on my phone, etc
 - 2. **Shopping Carts** - Guess what?! Sometime I don't take the shopping cart back!
 - 3. **Parents** - Cringe at parents fussing at their kids. Kids don't listen. Sometimes me!
 - 4. **Rude on Facebook** - Group chats. Some of the worst. I've thought some of same things and even said them to others.
 - 5. **Speech, Gossip, Greed, Selfishness, Envy, Phone use, Disengaged, Anger**, etc.
- E. **Romans 2:1-11.** God shows no partiality. He's Only Just Judge. **Above Pay Grade.**

II. See Yourself as the Bigger Sinner (3-7)

- A. **Sawdust & Planks. Boards. Logs.** Graphic image. Humorous,.

ILLUSTRATION: RESCUE 911. Drove into a fence, and literally had a fence post impaled/protruding for their face/eye. Walk into the hospital. And see the doctor, **"Hey doc. You've got an eye boogie or a little speck of something in your eye."** "Oh yea, drive sawmill everyday, must've gotten some sawdust in my eye. Happens sometimes." **"Are you sure you can help?"**

- B. **That's us!** How are you going to be able to look at others sins, and love them through it with mercy & grace, if you haven't seen your own need of the love, mercy and grace of Jesus in your own life? If you haven't experienced it!
- C. **A Sawdust sinner** is someone who might acknowledge their own sinfulness, and know theologically they're a sinner, but has low level-conviction. What specific sins are your convicted of? What habitual sins tear your heart up? How often are you broken over your own sense of helplessness and powerlessness over your sin? **"Yea, I know I'm a sinner, I know I have dust in my eye,** but have you heard about them?"
- D. We usually assume/default to the opposite. **I'm the Sawdust Sinner, they're the Fencepost Sinner.** *Until you see yourself as the bigger sinner, you'll always judge other*
- E. **Little Sinners get a Little Savior.** So be a Big Sinner and get a Big Jesus.
- F. **He does want us to help each other, but not until we can see clearly.** We can't see clearly until we've seen and experienced the power of the Gospel in our own lives. **Until we see our beam nailed to the cross-beam of Jesus. Only after!**
- G. **Then don't waste your time.** Those who are willing/able. **You're not the Holy Spirit.**
- H. **Protect your story/testimony. Pearls & Pigs.** *Some can't handle, can't be trusted.*

Back to the Intro: Worst person. Is that person in this room? Is that person sitting in your chair? Because if not, you haven't understood what Jesus is saying to you today.