

THE MOAT AND BEAM

Matt 7:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jesus not teaching one has to be perfect before he can correct the faults of others. If so, no correction could ever be made, because man at his best is still sinful 1Jhn 1:8
- B. Neither is the Saviour forbidding us to decide as to the personal merits of those we would help. If so, we could not obey Matt 7:6 which requires us to make or reach a conclusion as to who the "dogs" and "swine" are
- C. Thus Christ aimed this lesson at the fault-finder. He satirized the sin by using a log and a tiny speck

DISCUSSION:

I. JESUS CALLED FAULT-FINDER A HYPOCRITE Matt 7:5 (His behavior is hypocritical for a number of reasons)

- A. He is self-righteous like the Pharisee Lk 18:10-14
 - 1. Could see at a distance the mistakes of others, but not his own close up
 - 2. A man once said: "I think I could see my mistakes if I had any!"
 - 3. The Pharisee was building himself up by tearing the Publican down.
 - 4. No person can trim the wick nor shine the globe of his own lamp by trying to blow out another's light.
- B. Efforts to console a biting conscience
 - 1. We imply I am as good as he is or I am not as bad as he is but this gives us only a false sense of security
 - 2. Our sins cannot be whitewashed by the sins of mistakes of others
 - 3. Bible says such comparisons are unwise 2Cor 10:12
- C. Fault-finding often motivated by envy
 - 1. Discontent at the excellence or good fortune of others
 - 2. It is a work of the flesh Gal 5:19-21
 - 3. The envious fault-finder destroys another's reputation without blessing himself

II. FAULT-FINDER HURTS SELF MORE THAN ANYONE

- A. He blinds himself to his own faults Matt 7:3
 - 1. His chances for improvement are nil (none)
 - 2. because he sees no need for improving
- B. He has put out his eyes to the virtues of others because he is looking for evil
 - 1. Such persons found fault with Jesus
 - 2. Not because it existed, they were looking for it Matt 9:11
- C. The fault-finder has very few friends

III. SOME RULES TO FOLLOW IN OVERCOMING THE SIN OF MOTE HUNTING

- A. Remember that fault-finding is a despicable pastime
 - 1. It requires nothing great physically or mentally
 - 2. Robert West said: "No talent, no self-denial, no brains and no character are required to set up in the grumbling business."
- B. Become conscious of the sinfulness of it and watch and pray against it Matt 26:41
- C. Make up your mind to see good instead of evil.
- D. (Ill. a black dot on a white sheet of paper)
- E. Always look at self first (Matt 7:5) and make correction
- F. Heard said: "There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it little behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us."

IV. SOME HELP FOR THOSE WHO ARE THE TARGETS OF THE CRITICS

- A. Take comfort that even Christ dealt with this Matt 9:11
 - 1. They tried to find fault with our Lord (was none)
 - 2. And the servant is not greater than his Lord Jhn 13:16
- B. Profit from the criticism, even though it was intended to hurt rather than help ("When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.")
- C. Follow the advice of Benjamin Franklin: "Be sure you are right, then go ahead."
 - 1. It is better to suffer for well doing than for evil 1Pet 3:17
 - 2. Abraham Lincoln said: "I do the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would not make any difference."

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let's all work harder to see the mistakes in our own life.
- B. let's trim the wicks and clean the globes of our own lamps, so we can see to help our brother. 2Cor 13:5
- C. The Scriptures teach that we must reprove sin Eph 5:11; but we must not be the type person who goes about finding fault everywhere
- D. When we are continually looking for bad in peoples life we are not following the example left by our Lord
- E. Is your light shining as bright as it should be or is it a dim glow that nobody can see?