

## LOG IN YOUR EYE?

You might not be blind, but maybe you don't see so good. There's a lot of that going around. In Luke 6, Jesus cautions the blind against leading the blind. The pupil doesn't lead, but follows the master. Disciples of Jesus learn to become like Him by trusting and obeying His Word.

**LOGS & SPECKS** - In verses 41-42 Jesus observes, "*Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*" The people would have roared with laughter at this everyday example from Jesus' life as a builder.

*"How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."*

This is the kind of truth that hurts, because it hits so close to home. Jesus uses hyperbole, an intentional exaggeration common in Jewish culture. It's comical, yet quite serious.

**CHIEF CRITICS** - We think we see the splinter in the other's eye so clearly, yet the log in our own eye inhibits our vision. And we are the log-ites. Your discernment is faulty, even dangerous. Pride dulls your vision, so that you can't see your own impairments. Even the big ones.

We are also speck-ites, the person with the minor problem that others try to fix. Misguided blind guides often harm others, when they feel heaven-sent to straighten them out. But Jesus says, "*as you wish others would do to you, do so to them.*" He says, "*be merciful*" because "*you will be judged with the same measure you use on others.*" That's the golden response.

"It's too easy to become a critic of other people," observes RC Sproul. "But criticism must start at home. We should be our own chief critics, not in the negative sense, but we are to be more concerned about reforming our own lives than about getting everyone else to change."

**HYP0-CRITICAL** - If you are under-stating your own faults, you're hypo-critical. You do need to fix yourself first. In verse 42 Jesus says, "*you hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*" Notice the text doesn't deny the speck. The other person does have a problem and may well need help, even yours.

But the hypocrite (the Greek word refers to someone wearing a mask) is hiding the truth about himself. A hypocrite doesn't recognize their own problem or guilt. "Blind guides" in their zeal generally fail to show mercy, and may actually do great harm.

"Hypocrites are not helpful to say the least," relates RK Hughes. "The helpful disciple is one who submits to the searchlight of God's Word, confessing sin, and thus his spiritual vision is not clouded. His specks and logs are gone, and thus he sees his brother's needs clearly."

Christians are not to be hypocrites. If you've been born again by the Holy Spirit, then you have ability to discern God's Word, obey it, and truly love one another. 1Peter 1 says to put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, because we are being built up as a holy priesthood. We are called to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light, to the glory of God. Don't be reviling, but blessing, bringing peace.

**HYP0-CRITICAL** - Maybe you're prone to over-stating the faults of others. Being over-sensitive goes both ways: too quick to take offense, and too quick to make offense against others.

Proverbs 19:11 says, "*good sense makes one slow to anger; it is his glory to overlook an offense.*" And 19:20 says, "*listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.*" Blindly thinking you're always right is a sure way to be found wrong.

You may be right, as far as you can see. But viewing things from a different perspective often provides information that you would otherwise be unable to see. If you won't remove the log from your eye you never will see well enough to remove a speck from another eye.

Our world today provides plenty of examples to put these principles into practice. Do you respond well to coercion? Or confusion? Counterfeit information sounds great if you've not done research to see the consequences. What about those who tell you to let them do your thinking for you? Do you want to follow blind guides into a pit? Check everything against the Scriptures. As Psalm 119:15 declares, "*God's Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*" □