



Opening Question:

We read about a log and a speck in this section of the Sermon on the Mount. As a carpenter, Jesus would have been very familiar with this kind of illustration. In your realm of experience, instead of a log and speck, what example would you use to communicate this same point of how we see ourselves and others?

Read: Matthew 7:1-6; Philippians 1:9-10

Does v1 mean that we should never assess the behavior of others? Why or why not?

What is the significance of the exaggerated imagery of the log and speck?

What do v3-5 tell us about hypocrisy? What should be our primary evaluation?

What does v5 infer is the purpose behind this whole section talking of logs and specks?



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What is the balance between helping fellow believers with their issues and judging them?
How can we approach others with love in this, as described in Philippians 1?

What is the difference between judgment and discernment?
Why is that difference important?

How do prayer and wisdom play into everything in these passages?

How might these passages speak to our current society, particularly in a contentious election season? How might we stand out in the crowd by living them out?

How does Matt.7:6 seemingly contradict the previous 5 verses? What do you think it means? Would this verse be categorized as judgment or discernment?

What can we learn about God from these passages?

Is there anything you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your goodness, your kindness, and your love. May we be representatives of all of those attributes as we deal with other believers. May our dealings be firmly rooted in the grace you have offered us personally, which we can then extend to others, as each of us pursues a closer, more sanctified walk with you. Help us see through your eyes alone. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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