

Matthew 7:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Analysis

Hypocritical offers to help others with small faults while ignoring your own massive faults is absurd and offensive. The 'mote' (speck) versus 'beam' (log) illustrates the grotesque disproportion. How can the blind lead the blind? Only after self-examination and repentance can we humbly help others.

Historical Context

The humorous image of someone with a log protruding from their eye trying to remove a speck from another's eye would have made Jesus's audience laugh while convicting them. Hypocritical religious leaders who imposed heavy burdens on others while exempting themselves exemplified this.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What log (major sin) in your own life are you ignoring while criticizing specks in others?

2. How can you maintain both honest self-examination and humble concern for others' spiritual wellbeing?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| ἢ | πῶς | ἐρεῖς | τῷ | ἀδελφῷ | σοῦ | Ἄφες | ἐκβάλω | τὸ |
| Or | how | wilt thou say | G3588 | brother | thine | Let | me pull out | G3588 |
| G2228 | G4459 | G2046 | | G80 | G4675 | G863 | G1544 | |
| κάρφος | ἀπὸ | τοῦ | ὀφθαλμῷ | σοῦ | καὶ | ἰδού, | ἡ | δοκὸς |
| the mote | out of | G3588 | eye | thine | and | behold | G3588 | a beam |
| G2595 | G575 | | G3788 | G4675 | G2532 | G2400 | | G1385 |
| ἐν | τῷ | ὀφθαλμῷ | σοῦ | | | | | |
| is in | G3588 | eye | thine | | | | | |
| G1722 | | G3788 | G4675 | | | | | |

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