Matthew 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Analysis

First remove your own log, then you'll see clearly to help your brother. This isn't prohibiting all judgment but commanding honest self-judgment first. After dealing with your own sin, you're qualified to help others humbly and clearly, no longer a hypocrite but a repentant helper.

Historical Context

Jesus doesn't forbid church discipline or discernment (Matthew 18 outlines discipline procedures). Rather, He forbids hypocritical judgment that condemns others while excusing self. Paul similarly commands self-examination before correcting others (Galatians 6:1).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does it look like to practice both ruthless self-judgment and merciful patience with others?

2. How has your own experience of sin and repentance equipped you to help others with compassion?

Interlinear Text

ὑποκριτ Thou hypoc:	•	έκβαλεῖν cast out		ρῶτον first G4412	τὴν _{G3588}	δοκὸν the beam	EK out of G1537	τοῦ _{G3588}	
όφθαλμο eye _{G3788}	thi	σου thine own 64675		τότε then _{G5119}	διαβλέψεις shalt thou see clearly			έκβαλεῖν cast out G1544	
κάρφος the mote	έΚ out of	ΤΟῦ 63588	ὀφθαλμοῦ eye ^{G3788}		ΤΟῦ _{G3588}	ἀδελφοῦ brother's	thine	σου thine own 64675	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 6:42 (Parallel theme): Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Luke 13:15 (Parallel theme): The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Matthew 22:18 (Parallel theme): But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?

Luke 4:23 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.