

# SAWDUST & A 2x4

## The Story of the Speck and the Plank

Sermon by Ray Reynolds (8/8/10 - PM)

**Text: Matthew 7:1-6**



Introduction: People are really hurting in the church today. Many of us do not realize the power of our words and actions. Jesus encouraged Christians to judge with righteous judgment but what does that mean (**John 7:24**)? Things are not always black and white. The Bible reveals that only God knows our heart. This parable is one that can help us to better understand judgment and mercy when dealing with others. Let's open our Bibles and study it together. . . .

Discussion:

### I. *The Paradox of Judging*

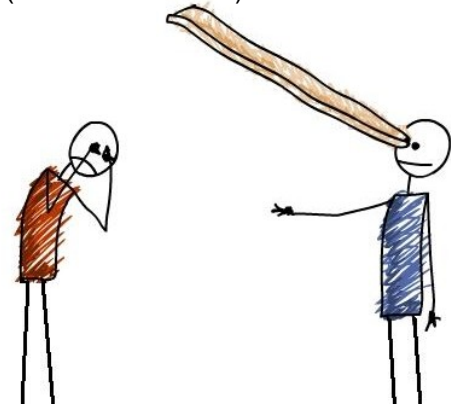
- A. Judgment will be given back to the judge (**Matthew 10:15**).
- B. Judgmental people look at the speck in their brother's eye (**Galatians 6:1-2**).
- C. Judgmental people have a plank in their own eye (**Matthew 23:1-36**).

### II. *The Pride of Judging*

- A. Christians should not give holy things to the dogs (**Exodus 29:37**).
- B. Christians should not give our pearls to swine (**Matthew 9:13**).
- C. Christians should know that God has a holy purpose (**I Peter 1:15-16**).

### III. *The Problem of Judging*

- A. Judging Is Dangerous (**Luke 9:51-55**).
- B. Judging Is Hypocritical (**James 1:10**).
- C. Judging Is Deceitful (**Romans 14:10**).
- D. Judging Is Futile (**Mark 10:17-31**).
- E. Judging Is Divisive (**Proverbs 6:19**).
- F. Judging Is Proudful (**Matthew 6:33**).
- G. Judging Is Sinful (**Matthew 18:15-17**).



Conclusion: You may hear the words of another person, or witness their actions, but you do not know their heart. Only God knows the hearts of men. There is no way to win when you are being a judge, because it is God's job. There are eternal consequences to judging others. Think twice before you render judgment upon a brother or sister. You may actually be sealing your own eternal fate. Do you need to repent or change? Have you decided to surrender your entire life to Christ? There is a loving and merciful God waiting for your response.

**WORD OF THE DAY = JUDGING**