



Wednesday: January 6, 2016 "Seeing Clearly"

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye [c when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye, when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5 (NLT)

When we examine the relationships in our lives for some reason it is always more appealing to start with trying to change the other person and not ourselves. Our usual assumption is to try to modify the behavior of our partner: "If I could get her/him to act right, everything would be all right." Odd thing when we got into the relationship we assumed we had met the right person to begin with. So why do we immediately begin thinking we need to change the person who we had previously thought was the "right" person.

So what do they do? Look in the mirror and work on themselves? Heck no. Instead they go to work trying to *fix* their spouses. Nobody wants to be *fixed*. *Fix* your pet, not your partner.

People don't get married to be *fixed*. They get married to be loved. Or fed. Moral of the story: people who refuse to focus on *making themselves better*, *tend to focus on trying to make others better instead*.

Don't do that.

Abandoning the right person myth now will save you a truckload of unnecessary grief later. Decide to become someone now so you won't have to fix someone later. Jesus illustrates this for us in Matthew 7:1-5 above. Jesus says, if you are willing to change you, your relationships will begin to change.

So how do we begin to change ourselves?

Prayer: God help me to focus on who you want me to be. Show me the areas of my life that are not consistent with you and your character and then give me the strength to do the hard work involved in changing those areas.