

If *speckology* were listed in a university catalogue, the course description might read: "The identifying and criticising of small shortcomings in the lives of everyone around you. Very popular course; fills early."

Should *plankitis* appear in a medical dictionary, it might be identified this way: "A disease that distorts self-perception and renders an individual incapable of recognising personal faults. Occurs worldwide."

According to our Lord, the solution is to "remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (v.5).

It doesn't take a carpenter or an ophthalmologist to understand this metaphor of Jesus. We've all enrolled in the course while suffering from the disease. But today, if we would shift our focus from the specks we see in others to the planks in our own eyes, what a difference it would make for us all! —DCM

*The faults I see in others' lives
Are often true of me;
So help me, Lord, to recognize
My own hypocrisy. —Sper*

Be quick to judge yourself but slow to judge others.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Speckology And Plankitis

Remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. —Matthew 7:5

According to Jesus, it's a bad idea to major in "speckology" while suffering from "plankitis." During His Sermon on the Mount, our Lord said, "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3).





Drawing Close

Get The Plank Out

(Romans 12:18) "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

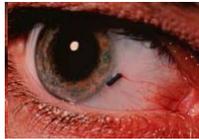
(James 4:1-2) "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? {2} You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. ..."

(Proverbs 13:10) "By pride comes nothing but strife, ..."



In Matthew 7:1-5 there are four steps to looking in the mirror– to seeing ourselves as we are, and getting the plank out:

1. To see _____ as the root of a _____ attitude, Matthew 7:1-2, 15-20



2. To see _____ as the root of _____, Matthew 7:3-4



3. To _____ yourself, Matthew 7:3-4

How?

◆ Ask for the _____,

(Psalms 139:23-24) "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; {24} And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

(Psalms 139:1-2) "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. {2} You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off."

◆ Know the _____,

(Hebrews 5:12-14) "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. {13} For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. {14} But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged



sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

◆ Ask for _____,

(Psalms 1:1) "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, ...;"

(Proverbs 1:5) "... And a man of understanding will attain (seek) wise counsel,"

(Proverbs 19:20) "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, ..."

(Proverbs 27:9) "... And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel."



4. _____ the log, Matthew 7:5

3 steps:

◆ Repentance requires that we be _____

_____,



(Matthew 27:3-5) "Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, {4} saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" {5} Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself."

(2 Corinthians 7:9-11) "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. {10} For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

[11] For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

◆ Repentance requires that we _____ our _____,

(Proverbs 28:13) "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

(Matthew 5:23-24) ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

◆ Repentance requires that we _____ our _____,

(Matthew 26:41) ""Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.""

(1 Peter 5:5) "... God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.""

