



Specks and Planks

March 27, 2022

Reflect + Discuss

- Do you feel there are certain spaces in our society where judgement is seen as acceptable, and others where it's not? Share more about this.
- Read Matthew 7:1-6. What stands out to you? What questions do you have? How do the parables of the speck & plank and dogs & pigs provide nuance to the command not to judge?
- Have you ever judged someone only to discover yourself doing the same thing?
- Why do you think Christians are known for being judgmental/hypocritical? What context does Jesus' use of the word "brother" (meaning sibling) in Matthew 7:3-5 provide as you think about this passage?
- Read Proverbs 9:7-9. Think about a time in your life when someone tried to offer you gracious feedback/correction. How did you respond? What are some ways you can be more receptive when offered a "pearl" of wisdom or correction?
- Why is reflecting on God's grace & forgiveness towards you important when you are tempted to judge the actions or character of others? What steps can you take to make reflecting on His grace & forgiveness your default first step when you are tempted to judge?

Dig Deeper

- To further explore Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:1-6, check out [this episode](#) from the Exploring My Strange Bible podcast.

Pray

- Pray for the ability to truly live out Jesus' teachings. Ask for humility in both offering and accepting correction in a loving, gracious way.

Next Steps

- Take some time to meditate on Matthew 7:1-6. Are there areas where you tend to be judgmental/hypocritical? Do assumptions play a part a significant role in your judgement? How do you tend to respond to judgement/correction from others? What would it look like for you to embody Jesus' teachings related to judgement and being open to correction? Reflect on the passage and these questions and take some time to journal your thoughts.