



# LOGS, SPECKS, PEARLS, & PIGS

**James 4:12** *There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?*

In the scriptures, man is called upon to imitate God. God is a righteous judge, so men are called upon to judge righteously (you can see this in Luke 12:57 and John 7:24), but also in the constant recognition that ultimately final judgment is God's alone (Deut. 1:17). A Christian is expected to be able to show discrimination and judgment in moral matters; the ability to do so is a sign of true maturity (you can see this in Roman 15:14; 1 Cor. 2:15; 6:1-6; 10:15 as well as other places). However, the Christian is also given frequent warnings against the danger of passing judgment on others in a way which attempts to anticipate God's final divine judgment, this is where Matthew 7 starts. All human judgments are provisional in the light of the coming judgment (1 Cor. 4:3-5). When the "new age" is fully manifest at the return of Christ, Christians will be called upon to exercise judgment with respect to the world, and angels in particular.

***What is a judgment you have made that has blown up because you were wrong? What is a right judgment that has also blown up?***

The word "judge" is the Greek word *Krino* and can have 3 different understandings.

1. It can mean to make a decision
2. It can mean a court of law
3. It can mean knowing the darkest places of men's hearts and making judgments based upon that.

When Jesus uses the word, in context of the passage, He is telling us that we cannot go into the deepest recesses of others hearts, only God can. Jesus reminds us that when we make summary judgments about people in the core of their being, we have entered into God's domain as He is the only one capable of seeing that deeply.

***Have you ever judged someone's worth because of something they did? How? Explain.***

When Jesus talks about trying to get foreign matter out of someone's eye He uses a very generic word that can mean "any bit of foreign matter." When He talks about logs it is a large item that no one could miss. Jesus does not say it is wrong to help your brother remove the speck of dust in his eye, but it is wrong for a person with a "log" in his eye to offer



help before dealing with his own issues. That is sheer hypocrisy. But when a brother, in a meek and self-judging spirit, removes the log in his own eye, he then has the responsibility of helping his brother remove his speck.

***Is it easier for you to point out other's flaws than be honest about your own? In what ways can this be destructive?***

Contextually and culturally holy things and pearls were good things. When a pig or a dog is being thrown something like a pearl, it is unable to comprehend or appreciate the value of what it has just been given. A pig doesn't know what to do with a pearl. Jesus tells us that we are to entrust not just ourselves, but others to God as well. Many times, as Christians, we assume everyone wants live by, and understands, our values. We throw things before them, thinking they will appreciate them, but only end up in a terrible confrontation.

***How have you cast pearls, or holy things, into places that it were not appreciated?***

*There are 3 things we must understand:*

**Entrusting ourselves and others to Jesus is the only way we will ever help anybody.**

*You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

**Entrusting ourselves and others to Jesus happens when we give up control.**

Jesus says "start with the places you know you are powerless and broken before you start on others."

**Entrusting ourselves and others to Jesus is the only path to true freedom.**

We must lay all of our worries and anxiety about others at the cross and entrust all things to God; His timing and His way.

***What things do you need to trust God with?***

***What relationships would grow if you trusted God with them?***

Judging is about trying to have control, freedom is about entrusting ourselves to Jesus.