

I recently read a book by Rick Joyner who happens to talk a lot about prophecy and the end time church, it was a good book and one thing that really stuck in my mind was a statement he made concerning a scripture. Have you ever seen on TV, or in real life, how the reflection of something in front of person can be seen in their eyes? Or maybe even looked closely into another persons eyes and seen your own reflection there in their eyes, it is usually smaller in comparison?

First up here is the Scripture that Rick used **Luke 6:41-42** *And why do you look at the splinter that is in your brother's eye, but do not see the beam that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Brother, let me pull out the splinter in your eye, when you yourself do not see the beam that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First cast out the beam out of your own eye, and then you shall see clearly to pull out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.*

Rick went onto say that if you always find fault in someone else's life it is usually only a reflection of an error in your own life. Think about it. I have looked at my own life and realised that this is true 99% of the time, it is human nature for us to be better than someone else. If you think you are a good fighter someone else is about to come along and beat you. It must have been 12 months ago that I read the book and I have never forgotten it, my life prior to being a Christian was not real good in the way that I was brought up, I have plenty of reason to be bitter, angry and think the world owes me a living, but I remember something good from that upbringing.

We had a man that lived with us and he was a Catholic and he used to say "*if you don't have anything good to say don't say anything at all*". I recently heard this at my church as well, how true. Let God be God for he is supreme, judge not least we be judged, and so on. I have heard people over the years say that smoking is a sin, drinking is a sin, and so on.

Maybe, but who are we to judge another man and put them down for it? The Bible tells us to work out our own salvation daily with fear and trembling **Philippians 2:12**. Most of these things are only an outward expression of inward problem in a person's life. How many people who accuse others hide, lust, anger, hatred, greed, gluttony, covetousness, and many other such things that are sin in the Bible?

If we were honest, we will admit that we all do at some time or another. Unfortunately I have seen Christian bike clubs judging one another over the years, I have seen churches judge each other as well and even to the extent of Pastors judging others including the people he is supposed to be looking after. I have judged others, as well as I have been judged or criticized by others. So what is the answer to this problem lets look at what Jesus says in the Bible. In **Luke 6:37** we are told "*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:*

Forgive! The reason we judge people is because we think they have wronged us and basically we are offended, another reason is we think that they are sinning - So what! We are not God and Jesus tells us to forgive in the last part of that verse. Sometimes we judge what we see on the exterior of a person; for instance, people think that I may have been involved in the outlaw scene because I have long hair and tattoos, wrong. I was just brought up in that scene but did not ride in it. I don't smile a lot, therefore people judge that I am sad, wrong again, I am just smiling on the inside. The Word tells us in **John 7:24** Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

What is righteous judgment? The word righteous renders as *dikaios* in the greek and signifies "*just,*" without prejudice or partiality, e.g., of the judgment of God. **In other words see them as God sees them.** The word Judgment stems from the greek word *krisis* primarily denotes "*a separating,*" then, "*a decision, judgment,*" most frequently in a forensic sense, and especially of Divine "*judgment.* (Both words come from the Vines Dictionary) It says to make a decision according to how God sees them, and basically - God loves them.

Nowhere does it say “go and bag a person to another”, or “spread rumors causing a mole hill to become a mountain”, and nowhere does it say “kick them while they are down”, yes what a person may be doing may be wrong in your eyes but what should we be doing to that person instead of bagging them? Jesus tells us in **Mat 18:21** *Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times...no seventy times seven?* And again in **1Jo 5:16** from the God’s Word Translation - *If you see another believer committing a sin that doesn’t lead to death, you should pray that God would give that person life. This is true for those who commit sins that don’t lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I’m not telling you to pray about that.*

Pretty straight forward huh? Don’t go to war on your own team hitting them with friendly fire - Pray for them! We need to understand and think a lot more about **Proverbs 18:21** here are a few eye opening translations of it - **God’s Word** “*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love to talk will have to eat their own words.*” **Good News Bible** “*What you say can preserve life or destroy it; so you must accept the consequences of your words*”. **Contemporary English Version** “*Words can bring death or life! Talk too much, and you will eat everything you say*”.

We all have faults! So the next time you see a speck in your brother or sisters eye, pull the log out of your own eye, then look at them and see them as God does. He sent his son Jesus to die for them, what will you do for them; kill them, or die for them as well by killing your own flesh and dying to self and its selfish attitudes. Although the disciples were wrong at times Jesus never bagged them, he may have rebuked them but then he uplifted them as well? Be uplifting to one another! **We need to be more like Jesus!**

Bless ya and stay upright, Roscoe