

## HAMPERED VISION

**TEXT: Matthew 7:3-4: And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or, how wilt thou say to thy brother: let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold a beam is in thine own eye?**

**Introduction:** Jesus very frequently taught by use of a parable which is an earthly story with a heavenly or spiritual meaning. He occasionally used a story mixed with a little humor in it. This is such an occasion in which He had a wonderful way of presenting a word picture with an appropriate joke to illustrate His point.

Can you imagine a man with a huge board sticking into his eye, yet trying to see well enough a little speck in another man's eye? Why he couldn't get close enough to do any good, even to see the speck? The story is even more humorous when we think about this well-meaning man being so frustrated about a trivial handicap in his friend, and being so insensitive and unconcerned about his own handicap. Jesus used humor in telling parables for a two-fold purpose:



1. This made the story easier to get the attention of the group of listeners.
2. A funny story is easier to remember and a lesson to be much repeated.

We all have a common weakness in looking for the faults in one another and not seeing the greater ones in our own lives. We look for the worst in each other instead of the best. Jesus is here making faultfinding look ridiculous. Usually, we look for the bad to salve over our own conscience, our faults, and short-comings.



**Our own weaknesses make us look cheap and feel uncomfortable, so we look for excuses to cover ourselves by turning the spotlight on others. In faultfinding, we tear down others so we can build up ourselves.**

This is what satan did to Job. Job was good, upright, feared God, and ran away from evil. The devil was straining to find a fault in this servant of the Lord. If one looks hard enough, he is bound to come up with something. The devil found but one soft spot in Job's armor, and it was FEAR. He then tried him over plenty in that area.

What beam has he found in your life, or what weakness have your adversaries found in you?

## TYPES OF BEAMS

### 1. **The First Beam — *hurt feelings and an unforgiving spirit:***

Illustration: A Sunday school teacher was giving a lesson on the topic of *hurt feelings*. He told how it was an admission of pride and self-centeredness; then told how it was often caused by a lack of understanding. Afterwards, a lady came up and said: *"I liked what you said about hurt feelings, and it needed to be said in this group. We have a woman here just two rows in front of me who is always causing me many difficulties, and always makes me angry."* There she was, leaving the meeting with the saw log still in her own eye.

In that very same meeting, a man told the speaker that he would never actually carry a grudge; but, things would never be the same between him and another member of the church. He declared that he would remember what had happened until his dying day. So he, too, was leaving the House of the Lord with a beam still in his eye.

### **Remedy: The first beam remover is Divine Love.**

God's love is a sure antidote to the painful poison of resentment and an unforgiving spirit. It is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.

***Romans 5:5: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.***

### 2. **The Second Beam — *faithlessness or lack of trust:***

Illustration: A person who professes faith in the Lord yet worries all the time is no person to give testimony to a doctor or a neighbor about how much faith he has. Yet, these people seem to be the very ones who want to witness to one who does not have any profession of faith in God. How can a sad, worried, and anxious Christian convince the unbeliever that God is able to do exceeding and abundantly above all he could ask or think?

***Ephesians 3:20: Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us . . .***

A brilliant young evangelist, in telling of his conversion experience, said that the biggest hindrance to his ever becoming a Christian was so-called Christians themselves. Not until he looked way past them — to Christ — was he convinced it was all worthwhile.

We want people to look to Christ, but those in the world are looking at us, too. They want to see what He has done for us, and only with a glowing, vibrant, showing faith can we help another out of their unbelief.

**Remedy: The second beam remover is the *Fruit of the Spirit*.**

**Faith — a simple, direct remedy of getting faith is to ask for it. The disciples did in:**

***Luke 17:5: saying: Lord, increase our faith.***

**Another way is by reading the Word of God out loud, for faith cometh by hearing:**

***Romans 10:17: So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.***

***Galatians 5:23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.***

***1 Corinthians 12:9: To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;***

For it is a gift of the Holy Spirit and also one of the nine spiritual fruit of the Spirit.

***Galatians 5:22-23:***

***<sup>22</sup> But the Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH,***

***<sup>23</sup> MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE: against such there is no law.***

**Then, the next most important way is by a deeper work of grace called Sanctification.**

It is also associated with the term: Crucified with Christ as mentioned by Paul.

***Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself***

**for me.**

We want people to look to Christ — but those in the world are looking to us who are Christ's representatives to see if He is working in us. I do not have to go about advertising how much faith I have, it will advertise itself by results in answers to prayer, victory in my own life, and a steadfast walk of faith in my daily life.

The faith of God is a marvelous Beam Remover.

### 3. **The Third Beam of apathy - better known as *unconcern or indifference*.**

The symptom of this is ***faultfinding***.

A. A faultfinding person wonders:

1. **Why they don't do something about Bible reading in public schools.**
2. **Why they don't do something to banish pornographic literature and dirty movies from the evening T.V. programming.**
3. **Why they don't take a stand against stores being open on Sunday.**
4. **Why don't they repaint the church and redecorate the interior also?**

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B. There is so much *intellectual assent* we can give while sitting in the bleachers, but never get involved in a good cause. If we never get around to taking any action, then we start blaming the fact that nothing is getting done on people who just don't care.

**Remedy: The third beam remover: God's guidance.**

Ask God to guide you into some proper action to help bring about a solution to the problem: either to speak to some person in a key position in a kind and constructive manner about things that are wrong; or, get others to speak who are more proficient. You can write letters to those officials who determine policy, then encourage others to write, also.

There is also a need for prophets who know the mind of the Lord, who will say: Thus saith the Lord.

**Haggai 1:5, 8:**

**<sup>5</sup> Now therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts; Consider your ways.**

**<sup>8</sup> Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.**

**Remedy: The third beam remover: God's Guidance.**

God's guidance to you — directing you into some Christlike action to help bring about His Will in the world, in our community, and in our homes. These are only three areas where we can be of service to remove the beams or saw logs from the lives of those whose vision is distorted. These beams distort their vision and also hamper all our fellow believers from effective service to the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Also, Jesus said to those who had beams in their eyes and were still walking about trying to remedy the ills in others' lives when they were loaded down with obstructions, too, that they need to clean up their front porch and the back one while they are at it. Then, they will be more effective and capable of straightening out the lives of their neighbors. They will see clearly to cast the mote out of a brother's eye.

#### **4. The Fourth Beam of *envy or jealousy*:**

Envy makes you find fault with others. In so doing, we are striking at another person and trying to hurt them with our tongues. This is a deadly sin and Jesus said that:

***Matthew 12:37: For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.***

It was Cain who, through envy, murdered his brother Abel. He would not be satisfied with stinging words alone; they did not satiate his jealousy enough.

Judas was motivated by the same spirit of envy and conspired against Jesus in the same way. He at first criticized the woman for wasting the precious ointment on the Lord Jesus which could have been sold for 300 pence and put into the church treasury, of which he was the treasurer.



**When we find fault with someone, we are looking for the worst instead of the best in them. Faultfinding steals the reputation of another person and makes**

them less effective in their service for the Lord. Envy is the saw log that hurts the critic more than the one criticized. It is like acid that does more harm in the one in whom it is stored, than on the one on whom it is poured.

An envious person is a merciless faultfinder.

An envious person is a merciless faultfinder. It puts out the eyes of him who does it — like the Pharisees and the scribes who never saw Jesus' good deeds. They were only looking for something He did, so they could brow beat Him because of their envious hearts. Tell me what you are looking for and, I will tell you what you are!

A faultfinder cheats himself of real friendship. I don't know all the rules on: how to win friends and influence people, but I know one rule that will not work. That is: be a faultfinder.

When we find fault, we are actually judging another person. God's Word warns against this sin. Jesus said in **Matthew 7:2**:

***. . . with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.***

When we find fault, we are actually judging another person.

In other words, just as hard as you are on someone else, God will be that hard on you. Hunting for the wrongs or faults or motes<sup>1</sup> in another person's life is an attempt to bring them down, to exalt ourselves. It builds up our pride and ego. It also makes repentance for our sins next to impossible. As long as we are hunting for something wrong by envy or jealousy in somebody else's life, we are not going to see ourselves as we truly are. We need more beam finders before we need speck finders. Paul tells us:

***Galatians 6:1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.***

There are times when workers are needed to take motes out of another person's eye. But, correcting others is a delicate work. We first need to take inventory of our own besetting sins, and then get the victory over them. That way we can deal in gentleness, tact, and wisdom with those we are trying to help.

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<sup>1</sup>A fault observed in another person by a person who ignores a greater fault of his or her own, an irritating particle in the eye

The call to help may come daily; therefore, daily we should be subject to *self-examination*.

**2 Corinthians 13:5a: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.**

When we find unChristlike attitudes, let us be sincere in repentance. Ask for forgiveness, cleansing and healing so that we may be more fit to work for the deliverance of others.

**Remedy: The fourth beam remover: check the motives of your heart.**

How can we find a cure? Realize the wickedness of faultfinding and criticizing others. Remember, motives come from the heart; therefore, seek to know what is motivating your actions.

Faultfinding is a deadly sin and kills you spiritually. It can kill another person's reputation but not destroy their character. The reputation is only what people think about us, but our character is what God knows about us.

Remember, motives come from the heart; therefore, seek to know what is motivating your actions.

**James 3:14-16:**

**<sup>14</sup> But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.**

**<sup>15</sup> This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.**

**<sup>16</sup> For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.**

**Conclusion:**

When we find someone with a fault, and we are about to report it to him — or worse yet — to someone else, let's first ask ourselves if there is ANY of this fault in us? It's surprising how many times we will realize: *"It's not my brother, not my sister; but it's me standing in the need of prayer, oh Lord!"*

Robert Burns wrote, *"Oh, would some power the gift give us to see ourselves as others see us!"*

Paul said:

**1 Corinthians 10:12: Where for let him that thinketh he standeth take**

*heed, lest he fall.*

**Dedicated, clear-visioned, compassionate workers are needed. Are you one?**

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