

# Jesus Said WHAT! Pt 1: Firstest First

**-Series Intro:** Have you ever had someone say something so Out of the Ordinary & so Potent that you were Momentarily Arrested by their statement?

-Sometimes out of nowhere someone drops a truth-bomb flipping conventional wisdom on it's head.

-once you hear it,,,, you know its true on SOME DEEP LEVEL,,, and you wonder how you have never known that before.

-Jesus was full of these types of statements. We are going to touch on a few of them.

-Every week we will examine a different "SAY WHAT" statement

-we will look at the Conventional Wisdom Jesus challenges

-we will look at the Freedom and Hope that comes as we adjust our life to meet the The Shocking Truth of Jesus

-Luke 6:41-42 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**-Sometimes the specific words we use matter....**

*-Example: if I say "your car is Hot" that means one thing,,, "your car is overheated" means something very different ,,, words matter*

*-“speck”= twig,,, piece of straw.....*

*-“plank” = a Beam or a Log. (Piece of support structure)*

*-“let me TAKE”= rip out by force*

**-(SHOW PICTURE)**

-We often invite ourselves to “Help” by trying to pull things out of other people's lives,,,, Our help has not been asked for,,,, Our help is often NOT welcomed.

**-the process by which we try to Help is Painful,,, that is why Jesus used the Eye for this metaphor.**

-We can all relate to being the bottom person in that picture. Right....

- But honestly, all of us have experience on both side of that picture.
  - we notice more when it's done to us, but we do it to others as well

**-Conventional Wisdom says: Everyone has their own problems, so we should all just mind our own business.**

- Conventional wisdom says “stay in your own lane.”
- Conventional wisdom has a Large Category known as, NONEYA.....

-If you dont read what Jesus said carefully it can sound like he is reinforcing conventional wisdom.

*-So let's look carefully:* “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

-Why are you all focused on the Twig in others when you yourself are walking around with a log that is going unaddressed.

**-so the issue is not necessarily that you are Addressing the issues of other people, but that you are using a different level of scrutiny with them, than with yourself.**

-your issues are virtually unaddressed .....

-while you are ALL TOO READY to offer up “Help” to others

-Jesus calls that lower level of self scrutiny HYPOCRISY.

**Let's be honest, we sometimes condemn things in others that we ignore in ourselves.**

-Jesus called that Hypocrisy, but he gives us a way forward.

*-A minute ago we talked about the importance individual words can have*

*-When Jesus said “FIRST”,,, this is the Contracted Superlative form*

**-Literally translated this word would basically say: Firstest First**

-So: "You hypocrite, **FIRSTEST FIRST** take the beam out of your eye, then you will see clearly

-This Word "First" has a few layers of meaning:

**-first in sequence** ..... (Anytime you notice a flaw in someone, first turn the spotlight on yourself,, how do you violate this, if not this in what ways am I equally or more sinful?...)

**-first in significance**..... (greater focus on this,, more magnitude)

-It should matter to you more how **WE** violate this. **WE** are the only ones **WE** have real influence over anyway.

**-first in succession** ... (this isn't a one off thing,,,, in succession,, in perpetuity,, you always come back to this first,, sequentially and in significance, in succession ,,,, repeat)

-You are never "settling" your issues once for all and then moving on to a primary focus on others.

## **Seeing my sin Firstest First softens my heart and shifts my perspective.**

*-this statement from Jesus is all about perspective*

-Jesus is tackling a deeply engrained sinful human tendency.

-this isn't just for "those rare hypocrites",, this is for us all

**-We are predisposed to viewing our own flaws through an overly generous lens; while viewing the flaws of others through the opposite end of that lens.**

*(show the two peep hole pictures side by side)*

*-Like a peep hole on a door:: one direction the entire scenery fits in ,, it minimizes,,,,,, looking through the same lens,, the other way All Eyeball... becomes huge*

-Our Skewed Perspective of our own faults decreases them in Size and Severity.

-we think we do it to a smaller & lesser degree than we actually do

-we think we are less hurtful & to fewer people than we actually are

-we reinterpret our intentions in the best possible light

-We see our failure as a twig when it is really a log. Our perspective skews reality.

***-Jesus is not attacking the intention to be of help, he is going after a faulty view of reality.***

-When our sin is dealt with Firstest First, it slowly corrects our skewed perspective.

*(we will start to recognize our twigs for the logs they really are)*

**-Seeing my sin firstest first will keep my heart soft.**

-Seeing exaggerated versions of other people's faults while seeing our own in a minimized way, feeds a sense of Moral Superiority.

-moral superiority fills us with Pride and HARDENS OUR HEARTS

-Hebrews 3:13 warns us about the Heart Hardening effect of sin

-But imagine if seeing sin or its effects in others actually caused us to remember the depths of our own sinfulness?

**-what if seeing gross stuff around us immediately and firstest causes us to be fully aware of how gross we can sometimes be?**

-When our perspective is firstest drawn to our own sinfulness we are filled with Remorse and Sadness over the brokenness sin brings.

-you will be aware of the cost of sin in your own life

*-you might know what your anger and rage has cost you*

*-you might know what addiction has cost you*

*-you might know what immorality or lack of restraint has cost you*

-Knowledge of our own sin comes with a sense of disgust but also a sadness for what it has done to us.

-when we look at others **without** a primary recognition of our own sinfulness then we only get the disgust.

-Our own sin self-awareness fills us with the compassion, and gentleness that is appropriate when dealing with sin.

-Romans 2:4 says that it is the kindness of God that leads to our repentance

-The kindness of God that comes with a proper perspective enables us to be a redeeming presence in the lives of other people.

**-God actually wants us to learn to be kind and redeeming in response to our sin and the sin of others.**

-this doesn't mean that we just wink at sin and leave it alone

-it is a destructive cancer

**When it comes to Sin we all need Liberation not Laceration.**

*-we need rescue not ridicule*

-Jesus was Lacerated for your sin so that you could be liberated from it.

-We need to receive that and offer that.

-Its ok to recognize how bad and destructive sin is as long as our primary recognition is within our own life.

-it is ok as long as our primary response is in our own life

**-when those two things are true,, then we finally begin to be of some redeeming help to other people as well**

-Then our heart becomes right and our approach becomes right.

**Jesus actually said that once we are seeing clearly then we will be helpful.**

“-first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

-A corrected perspective changes our approach to sin.

-Then we become useful in God's hands.

-The book of 2 Timothy actually instructs us to gently correct misguided people and to pray for them that “God would grant them repentance”

-True repentance and life change only comes when God opens people’s eyes to the broken reality they are in, and shows them something different.

**-that is what sets people free**

-He might use us as part of that process, but ultimately that is a work of his mercy and grace.

*-People in Recovery call that “hitting rock Bottom”,,,, what has happened is you have reached the point where God has opened the eyes of your heart,,,,, and now you are ready.*

-It is never the force of our argument that turns people around. It is the mercy of God shining in their heart and life.

**-When God does that it is an incredibly powerful thing to also have a friend, who is themselves continually being liberated, to help walk that person toward their liberation.**

-that is where we come it,,, but only if Firstest First has done its work in us....

## **Closing**

-Way to often we end up lookin like this picture (show first picture)

-we have good intentions

-but our perspective is wrong,, we are looking through the peep hole the wrong way

-When our perspective is right, our own sin will always be the most evident and grieving thing in our view.

-That perspective will transform our heart and enable us to respond to Sin in a Redemptive way.

-Jesus was Lacerated for Sin so that We can be Liberated & Liberators.