

Change starts with me – it isn't always someone else's fault



Luke 6:36-38, 41-42

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon and you will be pardoned. Give and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given... How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye", when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'



Reflection

God, grant me the serenity to accept
the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone, since
I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about
myself,
which is frankly a lot,
since, once again,
I'm not you,
which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing
myself
than to worry about changing other
people,

who, as you'll no doubt remember me
saying,
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom
to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking
about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to
remember that I'm not you.
Amen.

(A New Serenity Prayer by Fr James Martin SJ.)



Questions to ponder

- Why do you think we are so quick to judge others?
- Why do you think we can be so quick to complain about the Church?



Concluding prayer

Father in heaven, form in us the likeness of your Son and deepen his life within us.
Send us as witnesses of gospel joy into a world of fragile peace and broken promises.
Touch the hearts of all with your love that they in turn may love one another.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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