

circle of disciples--e.g. former "publican" and outcast sinners who had turned to Him.)⁶

His words in vss. 1 and 2 encourage self-examination and control. The first part of vs. 3, "So watch yourselves," belongs to the thought of vss. 1 and 2. The words following, "if your brother sins...", emphasizes looking to the faults of others. This is the same sequence as Matt. 7:3-5:

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? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

In resolving a conflict, the parties involved must first examine themselves and ask, "What have I done to contribute to this situation?"

At the Christian Counseling Center in Laverock, Pennsylvania, counselors often refer to a counselee's "log list," (the "log" or "plank" in the NIV that they must remove from their own eye.) Married couples in conflict are asked to make lists of their own faults. (See Christian Counselor's Manual p. 328 ff.) The lists are to be as thorough as possible. After a husband or wife has attempted a full disclosure of their faults, they are encouraged to exchange lists and fill in the faults that their spouse has neglected to record. The method is effective for it brings into the open the causes of conflict.

⁶Norval Geldenhuys, Commentary on the Gospel of Luke, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1951), p. 431.