

Life Lessons

“What’s That on Your Nose?”

Solomon wrote: “*He that walks with the wise shall be wise*” (Prov. 13:20). **When can we best notice a speck on the nose?** Think about it... *is it not when the speck is ON ANOTHER’S NOSE?* Consider this true story from the life of one of history’s greatest Baptist preacher – **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**.

Spurgeon “the greatest Baptist preacher of the nineteenth century” ministered in Victorian England (1855 – 1892). He died at the age of fifty-eight. By the time he was twenty-one, a printed sermon by Spurgeon could sell over 250,000 copies. By twenty-three, thousands pressed to hear him. Helmut Thielicke, said, “***sell all that you have... and by Spurgeon!***” Spurgeon’s maintained a library of over 12,000 volumes and authored scores of books. Now keep in mind that the second largest crowds in London came to hear to hear Joseph Parker preach at City Temple. I have written of him earlier.

Now the event. Spurgeon was a heavy smoker. Once reprimanded gently by another preacher, Spurgeon replied, “*If I ever find myself smoking to excess, I promise I shall quit entirely.*” The other minister asked, “*What would you call smoking to excess?*” Spurgeon answered, “*Why, smoking two cigars at the same time!*” Bramwell Booth (the son of Salvation Army founder Gen. William Booth) wrote of Spurgeon, “*His remark that he smoked to the honor and glory of God has done infinite harm to the world, putting in the mouth of many a youth not only a poisonous weed but a flippant and irreligious apology.*” This same Spurgeon printed and open letter of rebuke against Joseph Parker in a London paper for attending the theater. “*The evangelical faith in which you and Mr. Beecher agree is not the faith which I hold; and **the view of religion which takes you to the theater is so far off from mine that I cannot commune with you.***” Can’t you see him puff in delight as he pens these words?

Now back to the central question. When do we find it easiest to see a speck on the nose? Isn’t it on **another person’s nose**? Doesn’t our brother’s, sister’s, or friend’s sin offend us most? What sin seems insignificant? Is it not our own sin?

Which is the greatest ***Life Lesson***: (1) Keep your eyes on your own nose; or, (2) It is amazing that God uses people with dirty noses? In either case, we find a critical ***Life Lesson*** from the life of **CHS**.