

Jesus tries to alter my perceptions- "Be merciful, judge not, lest you be judged," is very counter-cultural. It calls for my self-emptying of the tendency to attach myself to my own views, biases and intolerances, denying the unique and eternal preciousness of each individual. I am called in the passage on bodily mercies, to meet peoples needs, such as alleviating thirst and hunger, or visiting the sick and so on. Jesus met peoples needs and so I am called to follow in this pattern. Jesus spoke of the speck and the plank, about my obscured perceptions, and presuming to find small faults in others when my own perceptions are so clouded. First I need to cleanse the gates of my own perceptions before any other task. Jesus spoke in a culture of ritual purity, but challenges this. It is not that which goes into an individual which defiles them, but that which comes out of them, with a list of distractions and unethical behaviours, due to a lack of inner kind merciful serene radiance. This is a call to me, to observe and train my inner mind, so that I can be kind to others.

Cerys.