

DEVICE 10: Satan draws our attention to those who seem to be worse sinners than ourselves. An example is the Pharisee in Luke 8:11.

Remedy 1 – If you catch yourself thinking that others are worse sinners than yourself – remember you are thinking the way a hypocrite thinks (³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? **Matthew 7:3–4 (ESV)**).

Remedy 2 - Compare yourself to Jesus' actions and God's commands not those of other sinful human beings (⁷ Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." **John 6:70 (ESV)**).

Remedy 3 – Recognize that even if you are actually less sinful than someone else, you're still a sinner destined to Hell without Christ. Even if the other person really is worse than you, you're both going to Hell unless you accept Christ as your savior (¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." **Romans 3:10–12 (ESV)**).

Questions

1. *If we compare the best of ourselves with the worst of others, are we being honest with ourselves? If not, then why do we do it?*
2. *Why is it always better to compare our actions to what scripture says, instead of comparing ourselves to what is worst in other people?*
3. *Just suppose that your sins really are smaller than everyone else's on earth. Does that mean you will be able to earn your way into Heaven?*