

Thought for the Day 27th April - John Reed

Read Luke 6:37-42

Patrick Lawler, a construction worker in Breckenridge, Colorado, got the surprise of his life when he went to the dentist with a minor toothache. X-rays revealed that he had a nail in his head!

In January 2005, Lawler, 23, was working with a nail gun when it backfired. A nail flew into a piece of wood, but Lawler didn't realize a second nail had shot through his mouth. He just thought he had accidentally hit his face with the back of the nail gun. When he got a toothache and blurred vision in his right eye, doctors prescribed ibuprofen and ice. Six days later, he went to the dentist. When he was told what the X-ray revealed, he thought it was a joke! Lawler was taken to hospital, where he underwent a four-hour surgery. The nail had plunged 1½ inches into his brain, barely missing his right eye. Recovering afterwards, Lawler said he would probably go back to work, but plans to use a hammer from now on. "This is the second one we've seen in this hospital where the person was injured by the nail gun and didn't actually realize the nail had been imbedded in their skull," neurosurgeon Sean Markey told KUSA-TV in Denver.

His is not the only story like that. There was the man in Portland, Oregon, who went to a hospital complaining of a headache and was found to have 12 nails embedded in his skull. And the story from Poland about Leonard Woronowicz, a retired school teacher, who went to hospital for X-rays to see if he had cracked his skull in a fall in his kitchen four days earlier. Instead they found the blade of a kitchen knife that had penetrated his head just below his right ear. Amazingly, it didn't cause any lasting damage!

One begins to wonder how many of us might be walking around blissfully unaware of the unusual objects stuck in heads! In fact, the Bible tells us, the chances are that many of us are, metaphorically speaking, in exactly that position. Jesus said: *"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, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* [Luke 6:41-42].

How often are we unaware of the planks in our own eyes? And what should we do about it? Jesus said: *"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you ...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* [Luke 6:36-38].