



In this series we are looking at principles of recovery following one of the most challenging years of our lives. The insurrection and attempted coup against our government capital by supporters of the president, and incited by the president, highlights necessity of closure, clarity, and covenant. I won't speak much about this today, but I have written about it on my blog at [bryanHUDSON.com](http://bryanHUDSON.com).

As a prophetic voice and as a prophetic people, we recognize the necessity of been firmly grounded in God's kingdom, and socially relevant within our community and nation. Time prayer meditation, the scripture came up,

**Isaiah 28:17**, *I will make justice the measuring line  
and righteousness the level; Then hail will **sweep**  
**away the refuge of lies** and the waters will  
**overflow the secret place.***

Remember that justice equals righteousness. Insurrection and sedition are neither just nor righteous, no matter how much people talk about God and wave a flag.

**Philippians 3:18**, *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

**Our God is a consuming fire.**

**Hebrews 12:28**, *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [a]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire*



**1 Samuel 30:6**, Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them? And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

After the attack of the Amalekites, David and his men were grief stricken and overwhelmed. They had a lack of clarity. The circumstances of the home being attacked, burned, and families captured created a crisis among them, leading to a lack of clarity. The crisis and lack of clarity produced a conflict among them in which there was talk of stone in David.

The first inclination of human nature is to blame others and not to examine oneself. One of the strategies of the devil is to use hardship and crisis to prevent you from seeking the Lord.

David had a moment of closure that allowed him to seek the Lord, and hear instruction from God. This resulted in the recovery of his family from the Amalekites

**Clarity:**

Clearness as to perception or understanding;  
freedom from indistinctness or ambiguity.



**Closure brings clarity**

**Clarity begins with self-examination**

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We're going to look at that story from first Samuel chapter 30 to see the process of clarity in the midst of the crisis. Let's first look at what Jesus taught about the clarity.

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**Matthew 7:1**, *"Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

We use this text to make the case that we should not judge. This is not actually what it is teaching. Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged." He didn't make a blanket statement that we should not judge, he is saying whenever we judge, be prepared for judgment.

In our vernacular, if you dish it out, you better be able to take it.

What we usually hear is "don't judge!" The fact is, we make judgments about people and things all the time.

Judge defined: 1) to distinguish, deem, think, 2) to determine, resolve, decree 3) Condemn, to sentence

We look at how people are dressed and make a judgment. We support or don't support a ministry's because we've made a judgment. We support or don't people because of a judgment. We go to a restaurant and make a judgment about the chefs and staff. We make judgments about peoples statements, actions, and intentions. We even make judgments about somebody else's judgment.

**Judge defined:**

- 1) To distinguish, deem, think,
- 2) To determine, resolve, decree
- 3) Condemn, to sentence

**We examine, but we don't condemn.**

A lot of what Jesus and the apostles spoke and wrote requires judgment, as making an assessment

**Ephesians 5:11**, *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them*

**Jesus made it clearer:**

**John 7:24**, *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*

If we are not clear about our own status, faults, and weaknesses, it will be difficult to be clear about anything else.

**2 Corinthians 12:9** *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*  
*10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Paul embraced his weakness and this brought God's strength



**Let's look at what Jesus said:**

**Matthew 7:2**, *For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use*

The standard we use for others becomes our standard.

EXAMPLE: If we don't listen to people to understand, a lack of understanding becomes our standard.

Using an example from current events:

The failure to hold President Trump accountable for his lies resulted in people believing lies, which resulted in an armed insurrection against the US capital by people who believe in President Trump's lies.

God is not mocked, whatever a man sows that he'll also reap. That's not only talking about what Donald Trump reaps, but with those around him, and who support him reap.

Again: Clarity begins with self-examination.

**Matthew 7:3,** *And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?*

There is no clear sight when your own vision is clouded.

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I wear reading glasses for not only reading books for doing production on my computer. I've got a 30 inch monitor but when my glasses are not clean I miss details on the project on that screen.

The unclean glasses introduce weariness over a period of time. When I thoroughly clean my glasses, it's amazing how much better things look and how much better I feel.

**Matthew 7:4,** *Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?*

There is the arrogance of presuming to correct others when we've not removed the obstacles to our own perception

There is the arrogance of presuming to correct others when we've not removed the obstacles to our own perception. This happens in non-serious ways such as with golf, when somebody who can barely hit a golf ball or make it go where I wanted to go, wants to help other people with their golf swing.

It could happen in serious ways when people lack perception and clarity have power and authority over systems and people. Just talking politics here, I'm talking about our nation and our lives.

When President Trump demanded that vice president Pence not certify the electoral votes from the 50 states, he thought that action would cause him to win an election he already lost. Trump evidently did not know the constitutional requirement of the president of the Senate, the vice president. The duty of Mike Pence was similar Oscar presentations. They give the presenter an envelope, she opens it and reads the name on the card. That was the only thing the vice-president was authorized to do.

Not understanding and defending the United States Constitution is a plank in the eye of Donald J. Trump. Vice president Pence, a lawyer, understands the Constitution. His mistake was enabling a man who never understood the presidency and who, in the end, incited an insurrection against the United States government.

**Matthew 7:5,** *Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

The objective is to help another with his or her lack of perception, **AFTER** self-examination

In this text we see that the objective is to help another with his or her fault or lack of perception. The important part of this is being able to see clearly, or have clarity.

Remove the plank, remove the obstacle. Move the thing that prevents clarity. This is very difficult to do without assistance. So the solution is to seek help, get counsel, become accountable to others.

I shared with you many times with my experience in art school. I hated having every person in the class, including the instructor, critique my work. I soon discovered how helpful it was for fellow artists and professors to help me remove obstacles of poor design and technique from my own perception.

You must give people permission to help you see clearly. Give permission to people in a position to help you because people won't say anything if you don't provide that permission. As I say often, "If you don't know don't help me."

**The Scriptures are a great source of clarity.**

**Isaiah 30:21**, *Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it, Whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.*

**The Scriptures are a great source of clarity.**

**Psalm 119:130**, *The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.*