



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 7:1-5

“The Folly of Judging”



Mt. 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.

2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

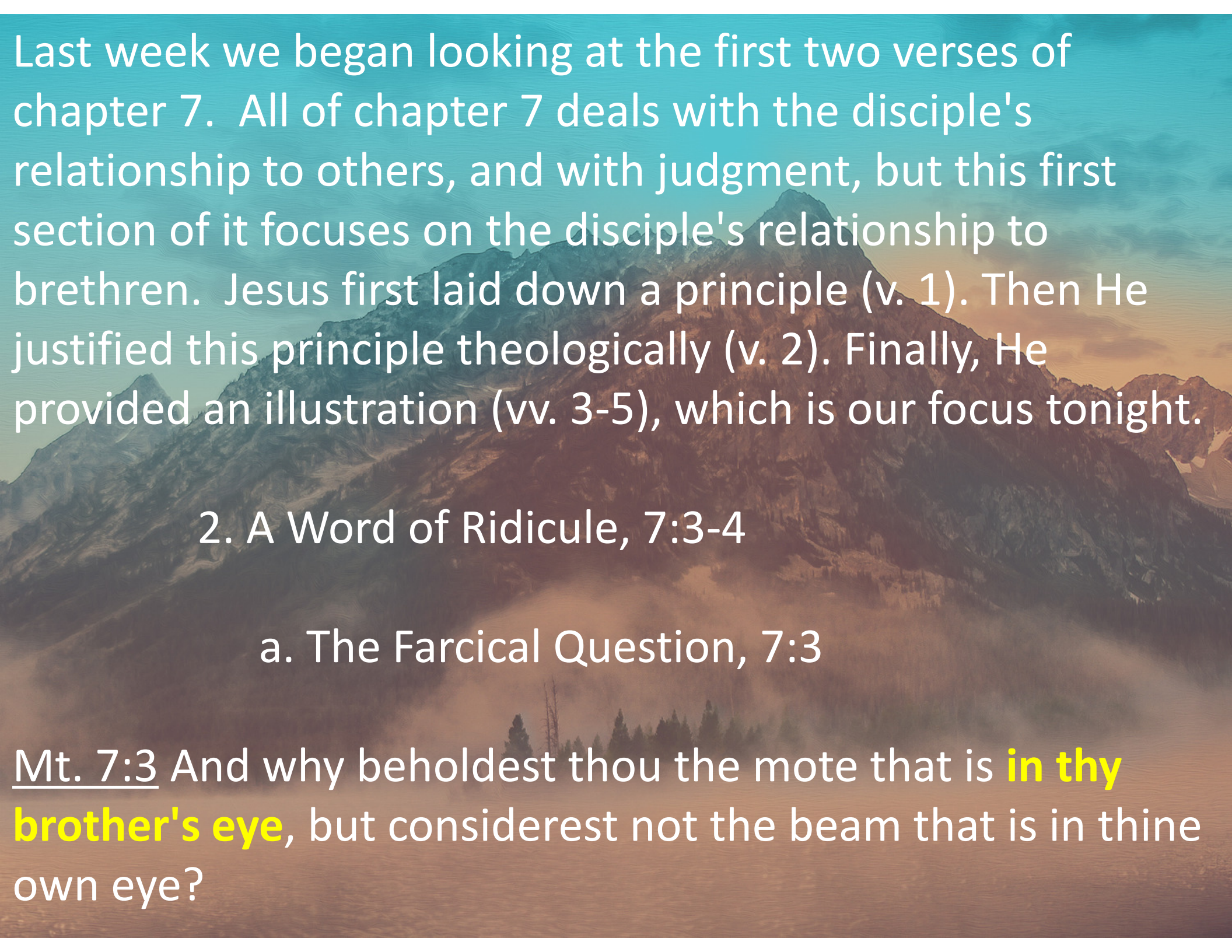
Review

- I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16
- II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20
- III. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BIBLE, 5:21-48
- IV. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BURDENS, 6:1-34
 - A. Burdens Connected with Worship, 6:1-18
 - B. Burdens Connected with Wealth, 6:19-24
 - C. Burdens Connected with Worry, 6:25-34
- V. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BEHAVIOR, 7:1-29
 - A. The Fool Exhibited, 7:1-5
 - 1. A Word of Reason, 7:1-2
 - a. What the Critic Does, 7:1
 - b. What the Critic Deserves, 7:2

Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

- ❖ **The Lord Jesus is teaching His disciples that He expects a higher standard of spirituality to be lived by them than how the Pharisees live.**



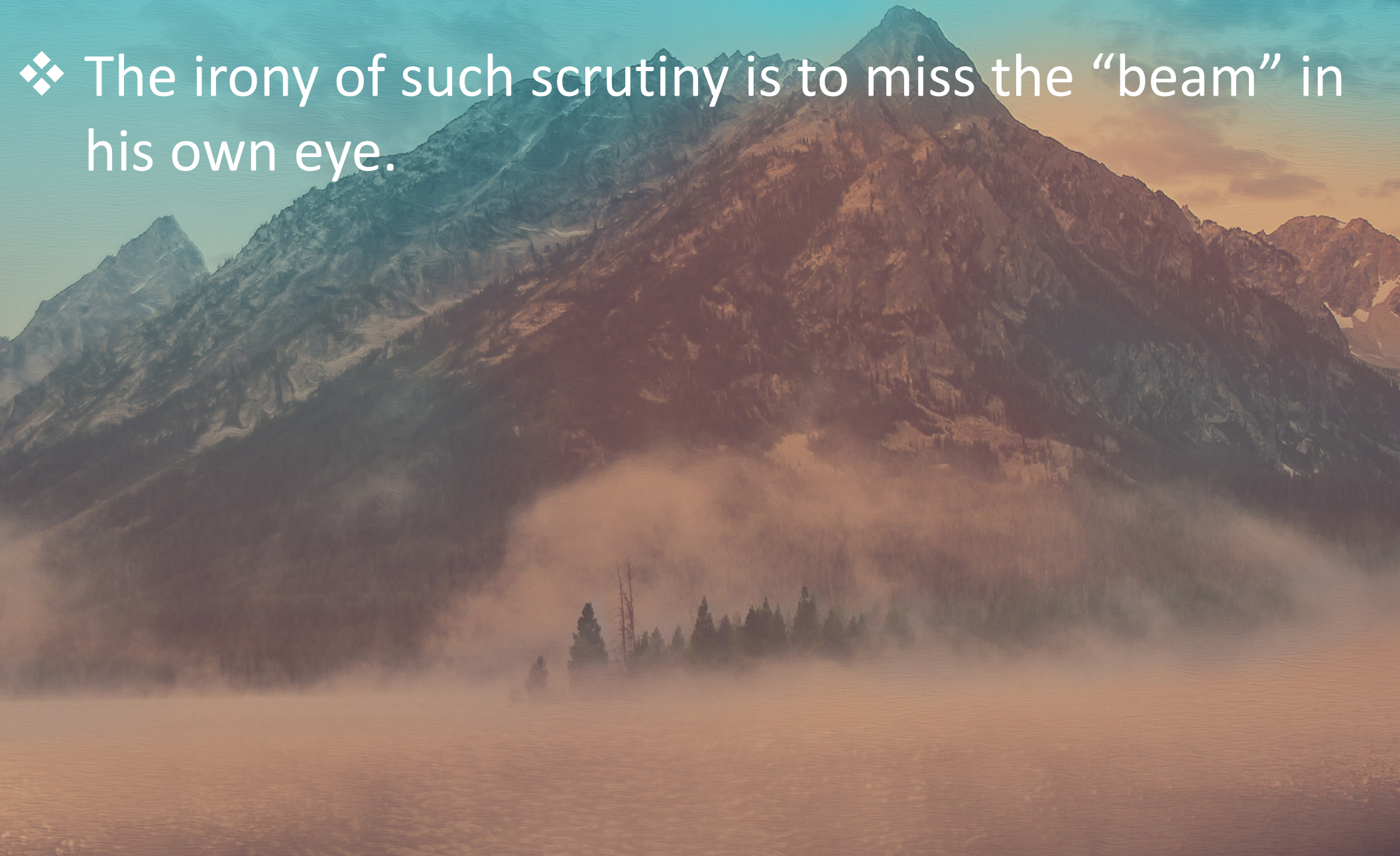
Last week we began looking at the first two verses of chapter 7. All of chapter 7 deals with the disciple's relationship to others, and with judgment, but this first section of it focuses on the disciple's relationship to brethren. Jesus first laid down a principle (v. 1). Then He justified this principle theologically (v. 2). Finally, He provided an illustration (vv. 3-5), which is our focus tonight.

2. A Word of Ridicule, 7:3-4

a. The Farcical Question, 7:3

Mt. 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is **in thy brother's eye**, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

- ❖ The one with a “beam” in his eye is the one who “beholds” a splinter in his brother’s eye.
- ❖ The irony of such scrutiny is to miss the “beam” in his own eye.



Original Word: κάρφος

Transliteration: karphos

Definition: a small dry stalk

Usage: a dry stalk, chip of wood, twig, splinter, chaff.
(mote)

kárphos – **properly, a small particle** (a splinter of straw or wood); "a dry stalk; a chip of wood" (Souter); something dry and light; a "*chip* or *splinter*, **of the same material with the beam**"

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2595.htm>

MOTE – A small particle; any thing proverbially small; a spot.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/mote>

❖ Jesus again used hyperbole to stress the folly of criticizing a brother.

Original Word: δοκός

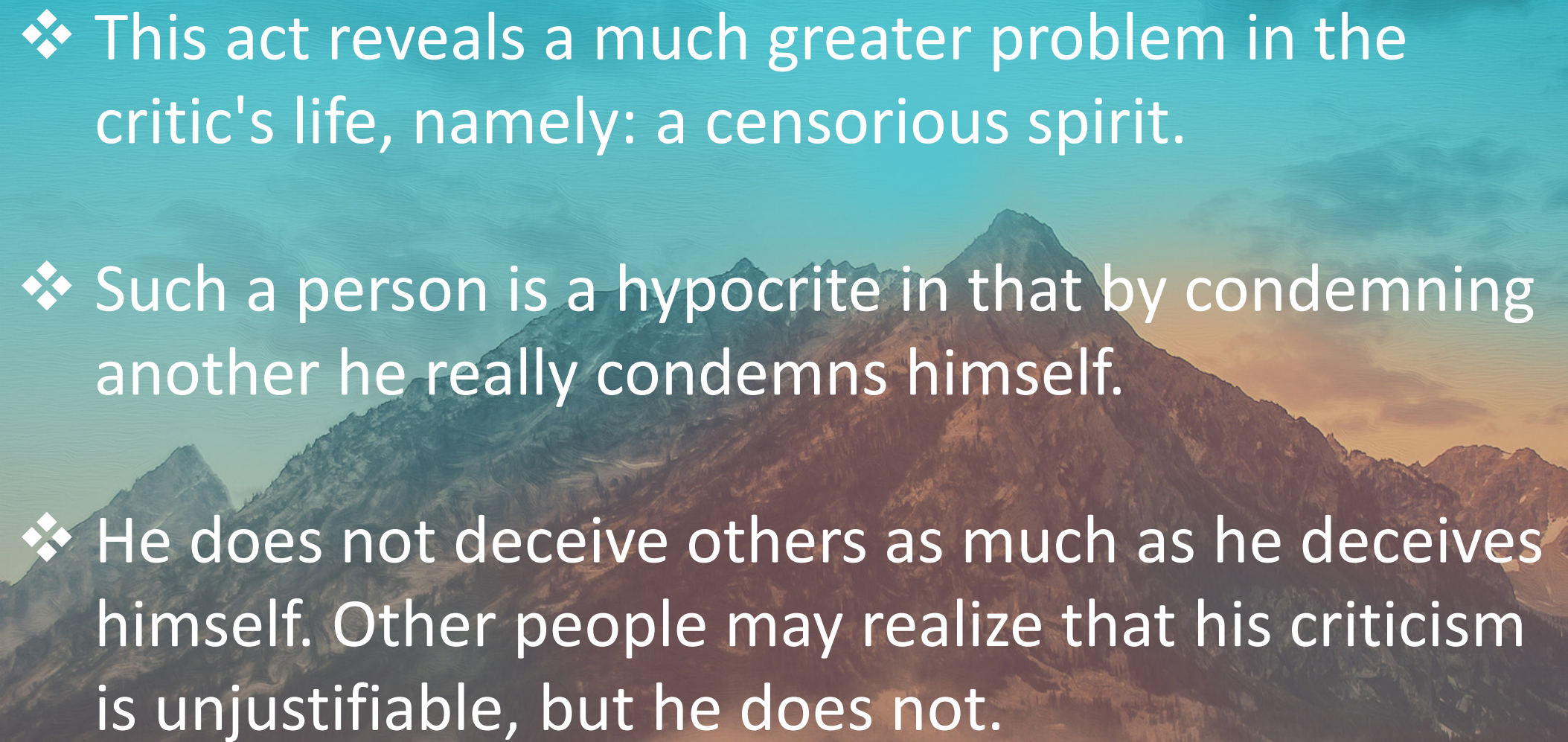
Transliteration: dokos

Definition: a beam of timber

Usage: a beam or spar of timber.

dokós – a large beam (joist) of wood; "*a beam of timber*" (*Abbott-Smith*); "a log on which planks in the house rest (as in the papyri); joist, rafter, plank (*Moffatt*); a pole sticking out grotesquely" (*WS*, 1, 60); (figuratively) a huge log (like a plank used in a house) that completely obstructs someone's vision.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1385.htm>

- 
- ❖ This act reveals a much greater problem in the critic's life, namely: a censorious spirit.
 - ❖ Such a person is a hypocrite in that by condemning another he really condemns himself.
 - ❖ He does not deceive others as much as he deceives himself. Other people may realize that his criticism is unjustifiable, but he does not.

Original Word: κατανοέω

Transliteration: katanoeó

Definition: to take note of, perceive

Usage: I take note of, **perceive, consider carefully**, discern, detect, make account of.

Katanoéō — **properly, to think from up to down, to a conclusion;**
to consider *exactly, attentively (decisively)*;

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2657.htm>

Luke 6:41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but **perceivest** not the beam that is in thine own eye?

❖ The hypocrite spends time examining others when that time should be used on examining self.

1 Cor. 11:28 “But let a man **examine himself...**”

2 Cor. 13:5 **Examine yourselves**, whether ye be in the faith; **prove your own selves**. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

b. The Foolish Quest, 7:4

Mt. 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to **thy brother**, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

❖ A proper attitude is important in judging oneself and other people.

1 Cor. 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Gal. 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, **ye which are spiritual**, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

❖ Censorious critics are not helpful or loving. That is what Jesus warned against here = More concern for the “mote” than for the person’s vision.

Luke 6:41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in **thy brother's** eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

42 Either how canst thou say to **thy brother, Brother**, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? **Thou hypocrite**, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in **thy brother's** eye.

❖ The disciples of the King are to be critical of self but not of their brethren. The group is to be noted for their bond of unity, which is indicated by a lack of criticism.

3. A Word of Rebuke, 7:5

Mt. 7:5 **Thou hypocrite**, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and **then** shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of **thy brother's** eye.

❖ The Lord rebukes the phony Pharisee, labeling him a hypocrite.

❖ The 1828 edition of Webster's Dictionary defines hypocrite as follows:

Hypocrite – One who feigns to be what he is not; one who has the form of godliness without the power, or who assumes an appearance of piety and virtue, when he is destitute of true religion.

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/hypocrite>

Job 8:13 So *are* the paths of all that forget God; and **the hypocrite's hope shall perish:**

❖ The condemnation of hypocrites by Jesus has serious ramifications – heart and doctrinal deficiencies are revealed.

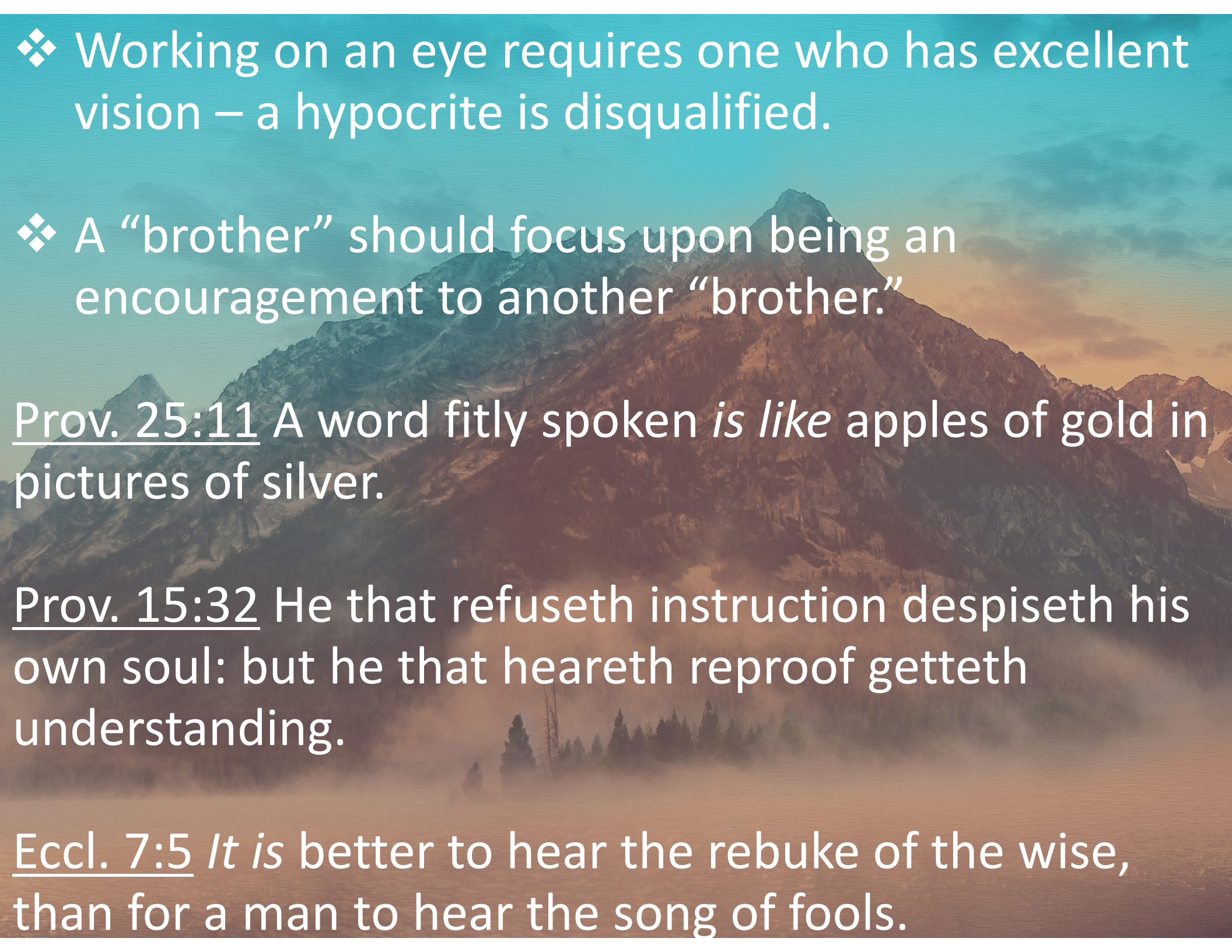


Mt. 15:7 **Ye hypocrites**, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but **their heart is far from me.**

9 But **in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**

- ❖ The illustration includes a precarious procedure.
- ❖ The eye is a very delicate organ and must be tended to very carefully.
- ❖ A “mote” is very small compared to a “beam” – **little things affect little minds.**

- 
- ❖ Working on an eye requires one who has excellent vision – a hypocrite is disqualified.
 - ❖ A “brother” should focus upon being an encouragement to another “brother.”

Prov. 25:11 A word fitly spoken *is like* apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Prov. 15:32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

Eccl. 7:5 *It is* better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

Jas. 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.



Conclusion

1 Cor. 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.**

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but **he that judgeth me is the Lord.**

5 **Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come**, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.