

# Eyes to See

By Michelle D. Craig

*Through the power of the Holy Ghost, Christ will enable us to see ourselves and see others as He does.*

I would first like to say that I enjoyed this talk and I thought it was important, timely and extremely relevant to “hearing Him.” With that said however, this is a perfect example of how not to write a talk if you don’t want to be taken out of context. Sister Craig taught a lot of wonderful things in this talk but her use of ambiguity as well as hyphenated thoughts make it very easy to take what she is saying out of context or not understand what she is saying. This intro or synopsis is a perfect example of that. Through the power of the Holy Ghost Christ will *not* enable us to see others as He does. There are two ways in which we will not entirely be able to see people as the Lord does. The first way is explained in these scriptures:

## **Alma 7:11-13**

11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

12 And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

13 Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance; and now behold, this is the testimony which is in me.

## **1 Nephi 21:15-16**

15 For can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee, O house of Israel.

16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

The Holy Ghost does know all things but the Son of Man suffered the atonement for us which enables Him to see us in a way that goes beyond the Holy Ghost.

The second thing is that the Lord will never reveal “thou shalt know” and “thou shalt do” (ie. information on another) for those they do not hold keys over. So if you were to take this quote all by itself and fact check it, it would get a rating of “mostly false”. In the talk however she

narrows this down to something a lot more specific “Ask to see others as He does—” once again, if all you had was that first half of that sentence it would be fact checked as “mostly false” but the information provided after the hyphen is “as His true sons and daughters with infinite and divine potential.” Her talk is riddled with these quantifiers and if you ignore them you will come away from this talk believing something that is doctrinally bonkers. The talk is a good talk and teaches a lot of important things but we have to understand the quantifies. I understand the use of vagualities spoken at General Conference but the lack of precise language leads to confusion and error among those who haven’t studied or learned the doctrine. Meaning, one individual who knows the doctrine can hear the talk and understand what is trying to be communicated versus somebody who doesn’t know the doctrine, hasn’t taken the time to learn it, they listen to imprecise language and can come away with false understandings.

A perfect example of this is Salt Lake City being the New Jerusalem. President Brigham Young taught until the day he died that Jackson County Missouri was to be **the** New Jerusalem in which the Lord would come to and to which the ten tribes would come etc. But on **one** occasion President Brigham Young taught that Salt Lake City in a sense has become **a** New Jerusalem because it is currently the center stake of the Church. Those that know the doctrine, those “concerts of clarity” as Elder Bednar put it, understand exactly what President Brigham Young meant on this singular occasion. While on the other hand those ignorant to the doctrine, those who never took the time to learn their scripture masteries, those who never took the time to learn the doctrine, etc, listen to this quote and heard “Salt Lake City is **the** New Jerusalem” despite the fact that this is clearly not what President Brigham Young taught and despite the fact that Salt Lake City doesn’t match any of the requirements for the New Jerusalem and despite the fact that the Lord said that “there shall be no other place appointed than that which I have appointed” (D&C 101:20), meaning Jackson County is it.

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“Zion shall not be moved out of her place” (D&C 101:17).

1. Stakes are to be established for the “strength of Zion” (D&C 101:21).
2. Before Zion is redeemed, Saints are to be “taught more perfectly, and have experience, and know more perfectly concerning their duty,” and to become a great army (D&C 105:10).
3. **The center place of Zion, Jackson County, Missouri, will be redeemed and sanctified.**
4. These events are to prepare for the great millennial era and its attendant blessings.

A lifetime of teaching clear doctrine can be frustrated by a single instance of ambiguity and imprecise language. Because Satan and his followers (the tares of the Church) can and will take imprecise language spoken in an instant and twist it to suit their needs in their war against concerts of clarity.

It is also important to note that the Holy Ghost can also only testify of 100% pure truth; 50%, 75% or even 98% truth the Holy Ghost cannot and will not testify of. Ambiguity and imprecise language will leave the real Holy Ghost and its influence on the sidelines watching helplessly.

With that said, let's get into the talk but understand for cases of ambiguity and imprecise language I will be providing in my commentary as little ambiguity and as precise language as possible for the exact reasons heretofore explained.

## Seeing God's Hand

I love the Old Testament story of a young man who served the prophet Elisha. Early one morning the young man woke up, went outside, and found the city surrounded by a great army intent on destroying them. He ran to Elisha: "Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

Elisha answered, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

Elisha knew the young man needed more than calming reassurance; he needed vision. And so "Elisha prayed, ... Lord, ... open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."<sup>1</sup>

I wrote a paper specifically about angels on the other side of the veil fighting on our behalf entitled *The War Continues*. Here is a snippet from that paper if this interests you:

"You will hear taught in the Church as doctrine [this talk by Sister Craig is one such example] that angels and those on the other side of the veil have come and will continue to come to bless and aid the righteous mortals now living (for example, 2 Kings 6:15-18, Joseph Smith's First Vision etc); you will also hear taught in the Church as doctrine that Satan and his followers actively fight against mortals now living (for example, Matthew 4, Joseph Smith's First Vision, etc). Both of these are true. But a third element is never talked about or taught even though it is equally doctrinal and the lack of teaching this gives rise to what I believe to be a convoluted interpretation of Revelation 12. And that is that righteous angels on the other side of the veil are also involved in fighting with Satan"

There may be times when you, like the servant, find yourself struggling to see how God is working in your life—times when *you* feel under siege—when the trials of mortality bring you to your knees.

Recent talks such as *Tested, Proved and Polished, Becoming Like Him*, etc tie directly into this subject. So if you are feeling like this those talks would also be good ones to go over.

Wait and trust in God and in His timing, because you can trust His heart with all of yours.

A good tie in for this is Elder Holland's talk *Waiting on the Lord*.

But there is a second lesson here. My dear sisters and brothers, you too can pray for the Lord to open your eyes to see things you would not normally see.

Once again, there are things that you are not allowed to see and no amount of asking will grant you the knowledge from the Holy Ghost. Sister Craig later in the talk gives good examples but

doesn't address bad examples. If you ask for things that the Lord cannot give you and you ask enough eventually you might get an answer but it most assuredly won't be from the Lord or the Holy Ghost.

Elder Dallin H Oaks said, “[A person may have] a strong desire to be led by the Spirit of the Lord but ... unwisely extends that desire to the point of wanting to be led in all things. A desire to be led by the Lord is a strength, but it needs to be accompanied by an understanding that our Heavenly Father leaves many decisions for our personal choices. Personal decision making is one of the sources of the growth we are meant to experience in mortality. Persons who try to shift all decision making to the Lord and plead for revelation in every choice will soon find circumstances in which they pray for guidance and don't receive it. For example, this is likely to occur in those numerous circumstances in which the choices are trivial or either choice is acceptable.

“We should study things out in our minds, using the reasoning powers our Creator has placed within us. Then we should pray for guidance and act upon it if we receive it. If we do not receive guidance, we should act upon our best judgment. Persons who persist in seeking revelatory guidance on subjects on which the Lord has not chosen to direct us may concoct an answer out of their own fantasy or bias, or they may even receive an answer through the medium of false revelation” (“Our Strengths Can Become Our Downfall,” Ensign, Oct. 1994, 13–14).

In Preach My Gospel we read,

“A Word of Caution

As you pray for inspiration, you should also confirm your feelings. For example, compare your decisions with the scriptures and the teachings of the living prophets. Be certain that the feelings are consistent with the assignment you have; for example, you will not receive revelation to tell a local bishop how he should perform in his calling. Discuss your decisions and conclusions with your companion, your district leader, or your mission president when appropriate.

President Howard W. Hunter offered this counsel: “Let me offer a word of caution. ... I think if we are not careful ... , we may begin to try to counterfeit the true influence of the Spirit of the Lord by unworthy and manipulative means. I get concerned when it appears that strong emotion or free-flowing tears are equated with the presence of the Spirit. Certainly the Spirit of the Lord can bring strong emotional feelings, including tears, but that outward manifestation ought not to be confused with the presence of the Spirit itself” (The Teachings of Howard W. Hunter [1997], 184). The Spirit of the Lord always edifies.

“If worthy, we are entitled to receive revelations for ourselves, parents for their children, and members of the Church in their callings. But the right of revelation for others does not extend beyond our own stewardship. (President James E. Faust, “Communion with the Holy Spirit,” Ensign, Mar. 2002, 4)”

All of those quotes are found in Preach My Gospel Chapter 4: Recognize the Spirit (p.98-99) and are crucial quantifiers.

To have or to get a good grasp on “stewardships” ie. “keys” see my paper *Keys of the Kingdom*.

## Seeing Ourselves as God Sees Us

Perhaps the most important things for us to see clearly are who God is and who we really are—sons and daughters of heavenly parents, with a “divine nature and eternal destiny.”<sup>2</sup> Ask God to reveal these truths to you, along with how He feels about you. The more you understand your true identity and purpose, soul deep, the more it will influence everything in your life.

Joseph Smith taught, “All men know that they must die. And it is important that we should understand the reasons and causes of our exposure to the vicissitudes of life and of death, and the designs and purposes of God in our coming into the world, our suffering here, and our departure hence. What is the object of our coming into existence, then dying and falling away, to be here no more? It is but reasonable to suppose that God would reveal something in reference to the matter, and it is a subject we ought to study more than any other. We ought to study it day and night, for the world is ignorant in reference to their true condition and relation. If we have any claim on our Heavenly Father for anything, it is for knowledge on this important subject. Could we read and comprehend all that has been written from the days of Adam, on the relation of man to God and angels in a future state, we should know very little about it. Reading the experience of others, or the revelation given to them, can never give us a comprehensive view of our condition and true relation to God. Knowledge of these things can only be obtained by experience through the ordinances of God set forth for that purpose. Could you gaze into heaven five minutes, you would know more than you would by reading all that ever was written on the subject.” (TPJS, p.324)

President Nelson taught, “Ask your Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, how He feels about you and your mission here on earth. If you ask with real intent, over time the Spirit will whisper the life-changing truth to you.” (“Becoming True Millennials”, BYU Hawaii, 2016). I plan on doing a breakdown of this talk at some point, it’s an important talk for my generation (My paper *The Truth about Millennial Men of Ephraim* also addresses my generation).

Once again here though, Sister Craig’s last sentence is “mostly false” if you interpret “it will influence everything in your life” as a positive. If you leave it vague the statement is true, ie. for better or worse it will influence your life.

### 3 Nephi 7:15-21

15 And it came to pass that **Nephi**—having been visited by angels and also the voice of the Lord, therefore having seen angels, and being eye-witness, and having had power given unto him that he might know concerning the ministry of Christ, and also being eye-witness to their quick return from righteousness unto their wickedness and abominations;

16 Therefore, **being grieved for the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds—went forth among them in that same year, and began to testify, boldly, repentance and remission of sins through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

17 And he did minister many things unto them; and all of them cannot be written, and a part of them would not suffice, therefore they are not written in this book. **And Nephi did minister with power and with great authority.**

18 **And it came to pass that they were angry with him, even because he had greater power than they, for it were not possible that they could disbelieve his words, for so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ that angels did minister unto him daily.**

19 And in the name of Jesus did he cast out devils and unclean spirits; and even his brother did he raise from the dead, after he had been stoned and suffered death by the people

20 **And the people saw it, and did witness of it, and were angry with him because of his power; and he did also do many more miracles, in the sight of the people, in the name of Jesus.**

21 And it came to pass that the thirty and first year did pass away, and **there were but few who were converted unto the Lord; but as many as were converted did truly signify unto the people that they had been visited by the power and Spirit of God, which was in Jesus Christ, in whom they believed.**

#### **Hebrews 4:2, 11-12**

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

#### **1 Nephi 14:7**

7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

Simply put, the more one understands their true identity and purpose the more it will influence everything in their lives, good or bad. The knowledge or word without faith profiteth us nothing.

## **Seeing Others**

Understanding how God sees us prepares the way to help us see others as He does.

Having faith in Christ as taught by Joseph Smith in the Lectures on Faith prepares us to see others as the Lord sees them, understanding how God sees us then is the way we see others as the Lord does. Joseph Smith taught in the Lectures on Faith that three things are necessary for man to exercise faith in the Lord.

1. “The idea that he actually exists”
2. “A *correct* idea of his character, perfections and attributes”
3. “An actual knowledge that the course of life which he is pursuing is according to his will”

The second point here is the important one that we need to address and that is the nature of God and more specifically as Joseph Smith summarized it,

“First, That he was God before the world was created, and the same God that he was, after it was created.

Secondly, That he is merciful, and gracious, slow to anger, abundant in goodness, and that he was so from everlasting, and will be to everlasting.

Thirdly, That he changes not, neither is there variableness with him; but that he is the same from everlasting to everlasting, being the same yesterday today and forever; and that his course is one eternal round, without variation.

Fourthly, That he is a God of truth and cannot lie.

Fifthly, That he is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that fears God and works righteousness is accepted of him.

Sixthly, That he is love.” (Lectures on Faith, p.39)

In order for a man to exercise faith in the Lord he must first understand these things about God, specifically that God is the same yesterday, today and forever and that he is no respecter of persons. What does that mean? It means that the Lord treats us and views all of His children with the same divine potential. This does not mean that all children are equal before the Lord, this means that the Lord views all of His children and treats all of His children from a position of equality of opportunity. It does not mean equality of outcome ie. that all of God’s children are or will be equally blessed. So what we are talking about here is God’s view of His children’s’ divine potential, not their current situation, meaning God can look upon His children, love them, and believe in their divine potential, while also acknowledging that some of His children have failed to live up to that potential and thus don’t qualify for the same rewards. It does mean that we know that a wicked man who is condemned to not reach exaltation will be with all of the other men in the same exact situation. There won’t be “favourites” or a single let’s say “famous sister in the Church” who can act one way but then doesn’t get punished the same way as others

who equally rebelled. And likewise we can know that if we do all that the Lord asks us to do that He won't say to his righteous sons "one sit here in rags, and one sit there in robes" (D&C 38:26).

This knowledge has to come first before we can exercise faith in Him. And as we learned above from Paul, hearing the words without faith profiteth us nothing. After we have this faith grounded in the truth and the Lord reveals His word to us (as Paul put it) or as Sister Craig said, when God reveals to us how He sees us, we will then know exactly how God views His other children. It doesn't actually prepare us for it, it completes the circle for us. For, if we know how God views us as Sister Craig says later in this talk "as His true sons and daughters with divine and infinite potential" we will then know how God views His other children because we know that God is no respecter of persons and if God views me this way He views them with the same potential.

This true understanding of God helps us to understand the true definition and gives us the real understanding of judging. See my paper (when it comes out) on judging to understand this. Simply put, if I espouse that all murderers shall be thrust down to hell and I murder I will be thrust down to hell; if you murder somebody or if somebody you love murders someone and you don't believe you or they should be thrust down to hell that would make you a hypocrite. If somebody teaches that having sex out of wedlock is wrong and then later they have an impure thought, does that make them a hypocrite? No. If that made us a hypocrite there would be no preaching of the word of God for we have all fallen and all have sinned. This cannot be and is not the understanding of hypocrisy and judging.

Columnist David Brooks said: "Many of our society's great problems flow from people not feeling seen and known. ... [There is a] core ... trait that we all have to get ... better at[, and that] is the trait of seeing each other deeply and being deeply seen."<sup>3</sup>

There are those who get upset that I don't, before I speak, say "I don't speak for the Church". I love this talk and I love the fact that she quoted this because Sister Craig A) holds no keys, B) is speaking at General Conference, C) does not qualify her talk by saying she does not speak for the Church, D) proceeds to quote a random columnist who is a "political and cultural commentator". If you believe that I am not allowed to speak on YouTube quoting prophets and scriptures because I "don't speak for the Church" but the first counselor of the Young Women is allowed to quote a political columnist at General Conference "and she can/does speak for the Church", judge ye.

I have no comment on the quote because frankly it shouldn't be here.

Jesus Christ sees people deeply. He sees individuals, their needs, and who they can become.

This is where the ambiguity once again becomes a problem. We can see through the Holy Ghost, through the scriptures etc what individuals can become (as I described above) but we cannot know or learn of individuals' needs unless we hold keys over them. Period. This is one of the differences that we did list above.



Where others saw fishermen, sinners, or publicans, Jesus saw disciples; where others saw a man possessed by devils, Jesus looked past the outward distress, acknowledged the man, and healed him.<sup>4</sup>

Once again, this is because the Savior and those with keys can do things that others cannot.

Even in our busy lives, we can follow the example of Jesus and see individuals—their needs, their faith, their struggle, and who they can become.<sup>5</sup>

Once again, ambiguity becomes a problem here. We cannot judge people's needs, faith and struggles without the keys. You can SEE people's struggles ie. I can see an old man trying to shovel his driveway, but that is not the same as seeing as the Lord sees or receiving revelation through the Holy Ghost of people's needs. We can know those things if we hold keys over them and all can receive knowledge through the Holy Ghost of who they can become and thus who all of God's children can become.

Sister Craig's reference here is a quote by C.S. Lewis. Once again, who can speak for the Church?

As I pray for the Lord to open my eyes to see things I might not normally see, I often ask myself two questions and pay attention to the impressions that come: "What am I doing that I should stop doing?" and "What am I not doing that I should start doing?"<sup>6</sup>

This is not ambiguous and it is doctrinally perfected. These are the two questions that everyone who has received the gift of the Holy Ghost is entitled to ask and receive revelation for. But remember, "if we neglect the revelations that have been given to us we do not qualify for the Holy Ghost" (President Joseph Fielding Smith). Meaning, if the Lord has told you what you should stop doing and what you should start doing in the scriptures, He will not tell you through the Holy Ghost, He will expect you to read the scriptures and learn for yourself.

Before I go into Sister Craig's story we need to read this quote from the Prophet Joseph Smith because it perfectly explains what is happening.

"The Spirit of Revelation is in connection with these blessings. A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.,) those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p.151)

Months ago, during the sacrament, I asked myself these questions and was surprised by the impression that came. "Stop looking at your phone when you are waiting in lines." Looking at my phone in lines had become almost automatic; I found it a good time to multitask, catch up on email, look at headlines, or scroll through a social media feed.

The next morning, I found myself waiting in a long line at the store. I pulled out my phone and then remembered the impression I had received. I put my phone away and looked around. I saw an elderly gentleman in line ahead of me. His cart was empty except for a few cans of cat food. I felt a little awkward but said something *really* clever like, “I can see you have a cat.” He said that a storm was coming, and he did not want to be caught without cat food. We visited briefly, and then he turned to me and said, “You know, I haven’t told anyone this, but today is my birthday.” My heart melted. I wished him a happy birthday and offered a silent prayer of thanks that I had not been on my phone and missed an opportunity to truly see and connect with another person who needed it.

With all of my heart I do not want to be like the priest or the Levite on the road to Jericho—one who looks and passes by.<sup>7</sup> But too often I think I am.

This is a perfect example of receiving revelation through the proper keys, in the proper way and implemented the proper way. She was not told nor would she be told by the Holy Ghost that it was this man’s birthday, for she has no keys over him. But the Spirit can and did tell her to do something and when she acted on that she was able to be a mini miracle in this man’s life. By writing down or at the very least taking a mental note of the inspiration and then acting upon it and then witnessing the miracle she could then judge the fruit of that pure intelligence and know that it was of God. The more she does this (or we) the more inspiration will come and the better we will get at recognizing and discerning it. This is also gone over, once again, in my *Keys of the Kingdom* paper. This process looks like:

1. Read the revealed word
2. Ask appropriate, specific questions that the Lord can answer.
3. Write down inspiration when it comes and act on it
4. Judge the fruit; as we do this we will “grow into the principle of revelation”

Sister Craig then gives us another story, this one is a little more ambiguous and will need a little clarification when we are done reading it.

## Seeing God’s Errand for Me

I recently learned a valuable lesson about seeing deeply from a young woman named Rozlyn.

The story was shared with me by my friend who was devastated when her husband of 20 years moved out. With her children splitting time between parents, the prospect of attending church alone seemed daunting. She recounts:

“In a church where the family is of paramount importance, sitting solo can be painful. That first Sunday I walked in praying no one would speak to me. I was barely holding it together, and tears were on the brink. I sat in my typical spot, hoping no one would notice how empty the bench seemed.

“A young woman in our ward turned and looked at me. I pretended to smile. She smiled back. I could see the concern in her face. I silently pleaded that she wouldn’t come to talk to me—I had

nothing positive to say and knew I would cry. I looked back down at my lap and avoided eye contact.

“During the next hour, I noticed her looking back at me occasionally. As soon as the meeting ended, she made a beeline for me. ‘Hi, Rozlyn,’ I whispered. She wrapped me in her arms and said, ‘Sister Smith, **I can tell today is a bad day for you.** I’m so sorry. I love you.’ As predicted, the tears came as she hugged me again. But as I walked away, I thought to myself, ‘Maybe I can do this after all.’

“That sweet 16-year-old young woman, less than half my age, found me every Sunday for the rest of that year to give me a hug and ask, ‘How are you?’ It made such a difference in how I felt about coming to church. The truth is I started to *rely* on those hugs. Someone noticed me. Someone knew I was there. Someone cared.”

This young lady could have absolutely received revelation that she should go and hug and love this individual. This 16-year-old could have also simply seen with her eyes and known on an empathetic and intellectual level that this was not a good day for this sister. But this 16-year-old did not receive revelation to know the thoughts, intents and feelings of the older lady, for that she did not have the keys.

As with all gifts the Father so willingly offers, seeing deeply requires us to *ask Him*—and then *act*.

As I went over above, this is obviously the correct order but *even before asking we have to read the revealed word (see my paper Faith as the Brother of Jared for a further breakdown on this prerequisite.)*

*Ask* to see others as He does—as His true sons and daughters with infinite and divine potential.

This is once again one of her better sentences, the ambiguity is removed, what she says after the hyphen, the quantifier, is extremely important. Because this is the way we will see our other brothers and sisters without the keys.

Then *act* by loving, serving, and affirming their worth and potential as prompted.

Now she is on step 3 that we went over above, once again the ambiguity is gone and the sentence is clear.

As this becomes the pattern of our lives, we will find ourselves becoming “true followers of ... Jesus Christ.”<sup>8</sup> Others will be able to trust our hearts with theirs. And in this pattern we will also discover *our own* true identity and purpose.

She wraps this up by explaining step four above, becoming a principle of revelation unto ourselves.

## Now I See

My friend recalled another experience while sitting in that same empty pew, alone, wondering if 20 years of effort to live the gospel in her home was all for naught. She needed more than calming reassurance; she needed vision. She felt a question pierce her heart: “Why did you do those things? Did you do them for the reward, the praise of others, or the desired outcome?” She hesitated for a moment, searched her heart, and was then able to answer confidently, “I did them because I love the Savior. And I love His gospel.” The Lord opened her eyes to help her see. This simple but powerful change of vision helped her continue to press on with faith in Christ, despite her circumstances.

Her last story here is an important one for when we judge the fruit, step four. When you are judging the fruit are you judging whether or not it came from God and whether or not you acted, or/versus if the inspiration/revelation led you to a desirable outcome?

Following God does not always mean pleasant groves and ripe fruit and warm blankets. Following God will in many cases lead you through the valley of death and when judging the fruit we should not judge whether or not it had a positive outcome for us as whether or not it came from God, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4). We should not be doing anything for rewards, praises etc from man or because we have a specific desired outcome in mind for this world. Seek first to build up the Kingdom of God and then shall all these things be added upon you.

As always, I end this paper with the words of the speaker and make them my own:

I witness that Jesus Christ loves us and can give us eyes to see—even when it’s hard, *even* when we’re tired, *even* when we’re lonely, and *even* when the outcomes are not as we hoped. Through His grace, He will bless us and increase our capacity. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, Christ will enable us to *see* ourselves and *see* others as He does. With His help, we can discern what is most needful. We can begin to see the hand of the Lord working in and through the ordinary details of our lives—we will see deeply.

And then, in that great day “when he shall appear we shall be like him, for *we shall see him* as he is; that we may have this hope”<sup>9</sup> is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.