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Sermon Title: **“PLANK EYE”**

Judges 20:1-28

- During the time of the book of Judges, Israel was steeped in sin
  - Leaders are gathered from each Tribe (except Benjamin – the tribe in question) to a place called Mizpah
    - This collection of leaders try to get to the bottom of what happened
  - Together, in one accord, in unity these leaders decide that they would NOT return home until they dealt with this atrocity first
    - Only problem is the text implies NO one asked God
  - Before going into battle the 11 Tribes send some ambassador type people to the Tribe of Benjamin to give them a chance to do the right thing
  - Unfortunately, the Tribe of Benjamin DOESN'T see this as a problem & they DON'T listen
    - “Listen” = obey; yield to; give heed or consent
    - The Tribe of Benjamin would NOT come to terms & so they prepare for war!
    - 26,700 men line up from the Tribe of Benjamin & the 11 Tribes bring to battle a total of 400,000 men
    - Such a super sad point in Israel's history, a Civil War looming!
  - Many commentators believe that Bethel was the same location as Shiloh (where the temple, ark, & high priest were located)
    - Israel's decision was made in unison, but Israel only seems to check in with God, like He's their magical genie
  - Roughly 400,000 men camp around Gibeah, ready for battle
    - Benjamin's army had also gathered together at Gibeah to protect & defend those lawless & wicked men of the city
    - Result = 22,000 people died (it was an absolute slaughter)
  - These 11 Tribes DON'T go to God weeping for their sins
    - Israel bemoans their loss & then they 2<sup>nd</sup> guess if they should attack their brother Benjamin again
  - On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the 11 Tribes once again go & attack Benjamin
    - Result = 18,000 MORE people died
- It's one thing to come to God broken, knowing you're wicked & guilty, it's another thing to stay broken!
    - It's NOT okay to stay broken (that's the thrust of the book of Judges)
    - I believe Israel NEVER addressed the planks in their own eyes, while they desired to address the speck in their brother's eye
  - After this 2<sup>nd</sup> defeat, Israel again goes to Bethel
    - This time Israel's weeping WASN'T just for the lost lives, but it was ALSO for their own personal sin
    - This weeping was accompanied by fasting & sacrifice
  - Israel had decided to leave the entire matter at the feet of God (they WEREN'T going to do anything else until God made it clear & blessed their attack)