

2 VIEWS OF THE CANYON

In *Tales for Coaching*, Margaret Parkin, founder and principal of Success Stories, tells about a newly married couple in the 1930s who took a trip to the Grand Canyon. Unfortunately, the day they arrived the weather turned cloudy, and the wonders of the canyon were entirely hidden from view.

The husband was irritable and impatient, and he demanded they move on, even without seeing the canyon.

From that day on, he told everyone he met that the Grand Canyon was not worth the trip – he'd been there.

Many years later, his wife died, and he remarried. Somehow, his new wife persuaded him to go to the canyon again.

This time, the weather was perfect, and he was impressed. He bought a postcard and sent it to his children, saying, "The Grand Canyon has changed a lot."

Our first impressions may not always be accurate," Parkin said, "especially if we allow extraneous influences to cloud our perceptions."

She is right. As a leader, you owe it to yourself and those around you to be less reactive and maintain a more balanced sense of objectivity before you offer your assessments of a colleague, policy or situation.

Making snap judgments can be risky business.

– Beecher Hunter