

# Clean Your Windows

A young couple moved into a neighborhood. The next morning, while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside.

“That laundry is not very clean; she doesn’t know how to wash correctly,” she said. “Perhaps she needs better laundry soap.”

Her husband looked on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hung her wash to dry, the young woman made the same comments.



A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice, clean wash on the line, and said to her husband, “Look, she’s finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her that?”

The husband replied, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”

We can chuckle at the story, but isn’t it that way with life?

What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of our own vision. That’s why Jesus admonished us all to check ourselves before we seek to judge anyone else.

Another example ...

A school teacher took her class on a trip to the local pool, where “one of my first-grade students misplaced her towel,” she said.

“That night, I received a frantic call from the girl’s mother, who said that someone had stolen her daughter’s towel. Trying to calm her down, I asked her to describe the towel. ‘It’s white,’ she snapped, ‘with Holiday Inn written on it!’”

Whenever we are tempted to point the finger at someone else, we should stop and ask ourselves, “Have I ever been guilty of this? Or maybe something even worse?”

Such a simple practice will not only help us to avoid a judgmental attitude, but it might save us from being hypocritical.

Jesus addressed this attitude forcefully in His Sermon on the Mount:

*Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 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? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye (Matthew 7:3-5 NKJV).*