

The Wink of an Owl

The story is told of a young man whose habit of criticizing backfired on him. One evening, while waiting for a bus, he was standing with a crowd of people looking into the window of a taxidermist shop. In the center of the window was a large owl that attracted the attention of all who passed by.

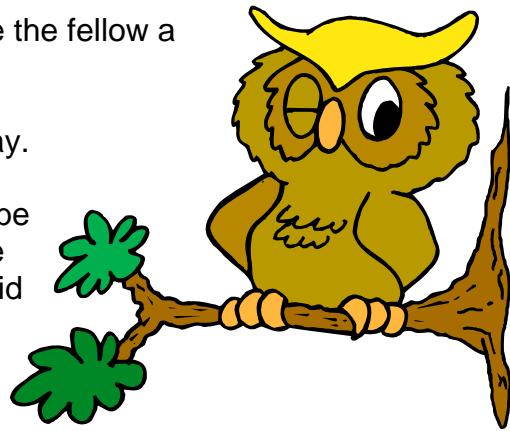
The self-appointed expert began to criticize the job done on it.

“If I couldn’t do better than that,” he said pompously, “I’d find another business. Just look at it. The head is out of proportion, the pose of the body is unnatural, and the feet are pointed in the wrong direction.”

Just then, the owl turned his head and gave the fellow a broad wink.

The crowd laughed as the critic slinked away.

One of the more destructive practices is to be unnecessarily critical. Too often, we are like the person in the anonymous poem who said of himself: “Faults in others I can see; but praise the Lord, there’s none in me.”



When we want to cast stones at others,
let’s ask the Lord to remind us of our own faults.

– Beecher Hunter