

## Window Toward the Alley

A woman named Ruth Knowlton lived in a tall apartment building in New York. Across the alley was another apartment building only a few feet away, and she could easily look into her neighbor's apartment.

Ruth had never met the woman who lived there, but she could see her as she sewed and read each afternoon. After several months, Ruth noticed that the figure by the window had become indistinct. She could not understand why the woman didn't wash her windows.

One day, Ruth decided to wash her windows. Later that day, as she sat down to rest by the window, to her amazement she could clearly and distinctly see her neighbor sitting by her window across the alley. Ruth said to herself, "Well, finally she washed her windows!" It never even occurred to Ruth that her windows were the ones that needed washing.

How easy and often we overlook our own failures, mistakes and sins while criticizing the faults in others. In fact, our judgment may reflect our own flaws, which usually are more serious than those we see in someone else.

Can it be that we are looking through the smudges of our own lives and finding fault in others?

--Beecher Hunter