

I THINK MANY FOLKS MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT ONE ANOTHER FROM TIME TO TIME. I KNOW I DO. AND MY ASSUMPTIONS ARE OFTEN QUITE INACCURATE. I TRY NOT TO ASSUME THINGS ABOUT PEOPLE BUT I STILL SOMETIMES DO. IT IS EASY TO ASSUME THINGS ABOUT OTHERS; IT IS MUCH MORE CHALLENGING TO LET GO OF THAT THOUGHT PROCESS. YET THE WORLD WOULD CERTAINLY BE A BETTER PLACE IF WE WERE ALL ABLE TO PUT ASIDE PRE-JUDGING. AND SO, THESE DAYS I AM TRYING HARD NOT TO ASSUME MUCH ABOUT ANYTHING OR ANYONE.

SO, HERE'S A LITTLE PARABLE I FOUND THAT I KEEP IN MIND AND IT HELPS ME WHEN MY THOUGHTS BEGIN TO STRAY DOWN THAT AWFUL PATH OF JUDGING.

A 24 YEAR OLD BOY SITS AT A TRAIN'S WINDOW SEEING OUT AND SHOUTS TO HIS FATHER ... "DAD, LOOK. THE TREES ARE GOING BEHIND US!"

HIS FATHER SMILES AND NODS HIS HEAD.

A YOUNG COUPLE SITTING NEARBY LOOK AT THE 24 YEAR OLD'S CHILDISH BEHAVIOR WITH PITY.

SUDDENLY HE AGAIN EXCLAIMS ... "DAD, LOOK. THE CLOUDS ARE RUNNING WITH US!"

THE COUPLE CANNOT RESIST AND SAY TO THE OLDER MAN ... "WHY DO YOU NOT TAKE YOUR SON TO A GOOD DOCTOR? HE OBVIOUSLY NEEDS HELP".

THE OLDER MAN SMILES AND SAYS TO THE COUPLE ... "I DID AND WE ARE JUST COMING FROM THE HOSPITAL. MY SON WAS BLIND FROM BIRTH. HE JUST GOT HIS VISION TODAY."

AND I THINK TO MYSELF ...

EVERY PERSON ON THE PLANET HAS A STORY.

AND I TELL MYSELF ...

KEEP AN OPEN MIND, AND AN OPEN HEART.

BE SLOW TO JUDGE; THE TRUTH MAY SURPRISE YOU.

