

“Do not judge others until you have stood in their place”

By: Jessica Ackerson

“Do not judge others until you have stood in their place,” said a Jewish scholar named Hillel. Have you ever judged anyone? A friend? A neighbor? Everybody has judged someone at one point, maybe not on purpose and unintentionally, but yet we all do it.

Sometimes your judgment may be right, but in most cases there’s a story behind every friend, neighbor, enemy, or person. For example, you may judge someone and label them as a jerk, or label them because of one of their actions. Maybe that person may have been a jerk because they were at the hospital all night with their sick family member and they barely got any sleep so their really grumpy. We don’t know! But we need to ask ourselves, “Do I really know what is going on in their household?” A lot of people now days are having financial issues, sickness in their family if not themselves, and just plain hard times. Maybe knowing something like that, could open your eyes, just like it did mine.

I am ashamed to admit, that I in the past, had judged one of my closest friends. At one point I couldn’t stand her, but then I found out stuff about her and her family, and saw how strong and great she was. I looked at her from a new perspective and realized I was wrong to judge her, and she didn’t deserve that. What had she done to me that was so bad? Nothing. She is now one of my closest and dearest friends.

So does anyone really deserve to be judged? Many times your first impression of someone is not the greatest; it could depend on where you are, say maybe at work, you don’t actually see the real person that they are until they are in a comfortable environment. Judging is a lot more than judging someone based off their attitude, there’s a lot more to it. When you judge someone, what are you judging them on? Do you judge them on their race, their appearance, gender, or anything else? In school it seems that judging someone based off one of these criteria’s, is why so many kids are so insecure, they constantly feel the pressure to fit in. Say a girl wants to fit in and wear what everyone else is wearing, what if her family can’t afford new clothes? What if they can barely afford to eat and put food on the table? Wouldn’t you feel bad judging her if you knew her situation? Judging others isn’t just about judging them on their attitude, people judge on everything! Yet judging is all the same.

So next time you go to pass judgment on someone, remember that you do not know what their circumstances are, try to get to know them before passing judgment on them. Remember that everyone has their own circumstances to why they act a certain way, so; “do not judge others until you have stood in their place.”