

JUDGEMENT - WISDOM – DISCERNMENT

Based on a story of unknown authorship by P.. Ribes,s.j.

A MAN AND HIS FOUR SONS.

Lessons for Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So, he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was in another country miles away.

The **first** son went in the **winter**,
The **second** in the **spring**,
The **third** in **summer**, and
The **fourth**, the youngest son in **the fall**.

When all had gone and come back, he called them and asked them to describe what they had seen

The first son said The tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said No! the tree was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; He said the tree was laden with sweet smelling blossoms, that it looked so beautiful and graceful thing.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was loaded with ripen and tasty fruits, full of life and fulfillment.

Then, the man told his sons:

1. That they were all right, cause they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.
2. Thus, they should never judge a tree by only one season, they should never judge a person in a short time or in a single meeting.
3. That the pleasure and joy that come through meeting people in life, can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.
4. That if you give up when it's winter you will miss the promise of your spring and summer.
5. Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joys of all the rest.
6. Don't judge life by one difficult season.
7. Persevere through the difficult patches in life. Better times, sooner or later. are sure to come
8. Don't be deceived by appearances.
9. Our single perceptions are partial
10. Rush judgments are inaccurate and misleading..
11. Take time to be wise.