

Ordinary 8C - 2022

Refrain from making rash judgments.

An engineer, a psychologist, and a theologian were hunting in the wilds of northern Canada. They came across an isolated cabin, far removed from any town. Because friendly hospitality is a virtue practiced by those in the wilderness, the hunters knocked on the door to ask permission to rest. No one answered their knocks, but, discovering the cabin was unlocked, they entered. It was a simple place—two rooms with a minimum of furniture and household equipment. Nothing was surprising about the cabin except the stove. It was large, pot-bellied, and made of cast iron. What was unusual was its location: it was suspended in mid-air by wires attached to the ceiling beams.

- "Fascinating," said the psychologist. "It is obvious that this lonely trapper, isolated from humanity, has elevated his stove so he can curl up under it and vicariously experience a return to the womb."

- "Nonsense!" replied the engineer. "The man is practicing the laws of thermodynamics. By elevating his stove, he has discovered a way to distribute heat more evenly throughout the cabin."

- "With all due respect," interrupted the theologian, "I'm sure that hanging his stove from the ceiling has religious meaning. Fire lifted up has been a religious symbol for centuries." The three debated the point for several minutes without resolving the issue.

When the trapper finally returned, they immediately asked him why he had hung his heavy potbellied stove by wires from the ceiling. His answer was succinct: "Had plenty of wire, not much stove pipe!" — A Christian who lives graciously, understands that things are not always as they seem, so he seeks to refrain from making rash judgments.

([Dave Mcfadden](https://frtonyshomilies.com)) <https://frtonyshomilies.com>

"I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

A young couple (Jane and Joe Shmuckatellie) moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman (Jane) saw her neighbor hanging her wash to dry. "That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap." Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor hung her wash to dry, the young woman (Jane) repeated her observations about the dirty laundry. About one month later, the woman was

surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband (Joe): "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband (Joe) said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

(Quoted by Fr Michael Grant George Cadotte) <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

Crab and the ocean:

Once upon a time there was a crab. It was walking on the shore of ocean, leaving its beautiful footprint behind. The crab adored its footprints. Suddenly as the crab was admiring its footprints, the waves of the ocean washed the footprints away. The crab turned towards the ocean wave and said, "Hey!! I thought you were my best friend. Why did you do that?? Why did you wash my footprints away?"

The ocean said, "A fisherman was chasing you, my dear friend, looking at your footprints, so I washed them away so that fisherman could not chase you."

It's a general human tendency. We all judge each other in different situations and draw conclusions about the person. Even in our relationship we judge the people by the actions or behavior. But it is important not to draw conclusions about any person and react without understanding the other person's intentions. (Divya Nimbalkar). <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

No entry was ever made:

People who are willing to complain about others in their absence are reluctant to do so to their faces. A preacher, capitalizing on this fact, devised an effective way of handling such critics. He kept a special book labeled, "Complaints of Members Against One Another." When one of them would tell him about some fault of a fellow parishioner, he would say, "Well, here's my complaint book. I'll write down what you say, and you can sign your name to it. When I see that person, I'll take up the matter with him." That open ledger, and the critic's awareness of his own faults, always had a restraining effect. Immediately the complainer would exclaim, "Oh, no, I couldn't sign anything like that!" In 40 years, that book was opened a thousand times, but no entry was ever made. <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>