

Two Lessons

Snap Judgment

While on a walk one day, I was surprised to see a man hoeing his garden while sitting in a chair. "What laziness!" I thought. But suddenly, I saw leaning against his chair, a pair of crutches. The man was at work despite his handicap. The lesson I learned about snap judgments that day has stayed with me for years now . . . the crosses people bear are seldom in plain sight.

A Harsh Word

A woman bought eggs and butter from a farmer who had a fine reputation, not only for the quality of his products but also for his promptness of delivery. Then one day, when she was expecting guests, he failed to come. On the next delivery, she spoke harshly to him. At the end of her tirade he said quietly, "I'm sorry if I caused you any inconvenience but I had the misfortune of burying my mother yesterday." Ashamed, the woman determined never to speak harshly to anyone again until she fully understood the cause of the delay.

