

JUDGING BY APPEARANCES

John 7:24 "Stop judging by appearances, and make a right judgment."

I remember buying our first car, a Dodge Intrepid. After we drove it on a long trip, I saw that the windshield wasn't getting clean. No matter how much washer fluid I used the wipers just didn't get the job done. I called the dealer and told him the problem, expecting to schedule some time for maintenance. He then asked me, "Did you clean the inside?" There was an awkward silence. It couldn't be on my side, could it? IT COULD AND IT WAS on my side. The wipers were just fine.

Jesus warned the Pharisees not to view and judge people by their own foolish, sinful opinions and standards. They viewed people through their sinful hearts, a dirty windshield. They called everyone else dirty when the problem was inside themselves all along.

As believers we still have a little Pharisee in our hearts. If we are not careful, we start to view others through sinful windshields. Jesus Christ was and is the only one to view and judge others as God saw them without even one smudge of sinfulness. By his perfect life and sacrificial death, we are forgiven and saved.

The next time you are in a messy, dirty situation, stop and make sure your inside is clean. Then using

Jesus' words of forgiveness first for your inside, you will be able to view others as Jesus sees them - sinners who need God's love and direction, just like you.