

Critical mass

WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?

Numbers 12:1-16 *While they were at Hazereth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. 2 They said, "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he spoken through us, too?" But the LORD heard them.*

Criticism is _____ Complaint

CRITICISM: EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION WITH A _____ WHO IS NOT _____ AND WHO I AM NOT TRYING TO _____.

We might feel _____ about complaining, but _____ with criticism.

Criticism _____ the critic

Numbers 11:16,17 *The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. 17I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.*

Numbers 11:24, 25 *So Moses went out and told the people what the Lord had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent. 25Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.*

Numbers 11:26-29 *However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. 27A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" 29 But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"*

Criticism _____ me _____ me might be necessary

Matthew 18:15 *If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.*

Proverbs 13:18 *If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept correction, you will be honored.*

Proverbs 15:31 *If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise.*

Ecclesiastes 7:5 *Better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool.*

Criticism about a _____ is always* wrong

Matthew 18:16 *But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.*

Numbers 12:3 *(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)*

Humble people are _____ to false criticism

Psalm 38:13-15 *But I am deaf to all their threats. I am silent before them as one who cannot speak. 14 I choose to hear nothing, and I make no reply. 15 For I am waiting for you, O LORD. You must answer for me, O Lord my God.*

Numbers 12:4 *So immediately the LORD called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, "Go out to the Tabernacle, all three of you!" And the three of them went out. 5 Then the LORD descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Aaron and Miriam!" he called, and they stepped forward. 6 And the LORD said to them, "Now listen to me! Even with prophets, I the LORD communicate by visions and dreams. 7 But that is not how I communicate with my servant Moses. He is entrusted with my entire house. 8 I speak to him face to face, directly and not in riddles! He sees the LORD as he is. Should you not be afraid to criticize him?" 9 The LORD was furious with them, and he departed.*

Ability means _____ to God than _____

God _____ criticism

Numbers 12:10 *As the cloud moved from above the Tabernacle, Miriam suddenly became white as snow with leprosy. When Aaron saw what had happened, 11 he cried out to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please don't punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed. 12 Don't let her be like a stillborn baby, already decayed at birth." 13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "Heal her, O God, I beg you!" 14 And the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, wouldn't she have been defiled for seven days? Banish her from the camp for seven days, and after that she may return." 15 So Miriam was excluded from the camp for seven days, and the people waited until she was brought back before they traveled again. 16 Then they left Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.*

Four results of Criticism

Criticism blocks _____

"Then the LORD descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle."

Criticism rejects the _____

"The LORD was furious with them, and he departed."

Criticism breaks _____

Criticism bars _____

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF (AND GOD)

1. Am I a _____ person?
2. Am I reaping the consequences of my _____ in my relationship with God?
3. Am I willing to _____?