

Morning Lesson

HANDLING CRITICISM

Prov. 27:5, 6

INTRO:

1. Criticism – “to consider the merits and demerits of and judge accordingly.”
2. There are two reasons why this topic matters.

I. ALL AT TIMES ARE CRITICIZED.

- A. Those who suffer criticism are the ones who differ from the majority. **Matt. 27:18**
- B. Christians need to accept the fact that those who do right will differ from the majority. **Matt. 7:13, 14**
- C. They are looked at as fanatics or strange. **1 Pet. 4:4**
- D. They will be criticized. **Luke 6:26**

II. MANY OF US AT TIMES ASSUME THE ROLE OF CRITIC.

- A. In **Matt. 7:1-6** Jesus was not forbidding evaluation of others, but giving guidelines on how to do it. **Matt. 23; 2 Tim. 4:2**
- B. Remember that even when you engage in this practice the right way, you will be criticized. **Matt. 25:21**

III. WE MUST BE CHRIST-LIKE IN GIVING AND ACCEPTING CRITICISM.

- A. There are attitudes toward criticism that are not helpful. **Matt. 13:20, 21**
- B. Others react in the opposite way with tragic results.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR EVALUATING AND RESPONDING TO CRITICISM.

- A. Some criticism we should use. **2 Sam. 12:1-13**
- B. Some criticism we should ignore. **Matt. 11:18, 19**
- C. Some criticism we ought to defy and contradict. **Luke 5:30-32; Acts 5:29**

CONC:

1. Though it is not easy for me, I try to appreciate those who help me by telling me how I can improve.
2. May God give us wisdom in receiving, evaluating, and using criticism that comes our way.
3. It is an opportunity to grow!