

Answer Your Critics

Lead Like Jesus : Week 5 of 8 : MANUP.co

***Leadership is INFLUENCE
and EVERYBODY has influence.***

WARNING: *Leaders don't just have followers . . . they have CRITICS.*

Luke 6

⁶ On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. ⁷ The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath. ⁸ But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." ⁹ Then Jesus said to his critics,

"I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"

¹⁰ He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! ¹¹ At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

Critic = *"to judge, to decide, to separate, to critique."*

Jesus and his Critics.

- Jesus asked questions and waited for an answer.
- Jesus didn't need the approval of others because he had the approval of his Father.
- Jesus knew when to walk away.

The Right way to RECEIVE Criticism.

James 1

¹⁹ Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

1. Receive it with humility.

- Open your ears and close your mouth.
- Listen for the kernel of truth.

Q: Are you quick to listen or quick to argue?

2. Respond to it with truth.

- *I'm sorry... I was wrong... Will you forgive me?*
- *Thank you... Can you help me understand?*
- *Would it be OK if I explained?*

Q: How do you respond to criticism?

3. Replace your anger with God's righteousness.

- God has the power to help you do right.
- God will make it right even if they're wrong.

Q: Can you trust God with your anger?

4. Release anything that's not true.

- Refuse to replay the conversation in your mind.
- Replace their words with God's Word.

Q: What is God's truth say about YOU?

The Right way to GIVE Criticism.

James 3

¹⁷ The wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸ And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

1. The Right Person.

- Sharing criticism with the wrong person is Gossip
- Go directly to the person that offended you or to the leader that's over you.

Q: Am I sharing this with the right person?

2. The Right Time.

- Never criticize in public.
- Never criticize in anger.

Q: Should this wait till later?

3. The Right Tone.

- Saying the right thing in the wrong way is wrong.
- Your body speaks louder than your mouth.

Q: Are my words helpful or hurtful?

4. The Right Motive.

- Love is the only motivation for criticism.
- Love is patient, kind, gentle, truthful, & helpful.

Q: Am I trying to “Be Right” or “Make it Right?”

Criticism will either break you or build you!

Questions.

Q: Are you quick to listen or quick to argue?

Q: What is one way you can listen better?

Q: What criticism have you been ignoring that you need to be paying attention too?

Q: What criticism have you been holding onto that you need to replace with God's truth about you?

Q: What relationship in your life needs you to sow "Seeds of Peace"?

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Prayer: Father God, help me to walk with humility and peace today. Keep my heart from being defensive and my words from being offensive. Remove any trace of bitterness or resentment from my life, and fill me with patience and gentleness. Amen.