

The Perfect Blend

Part 2 – Dealing with Criticism



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"If you are remarkable, it's likely some people won't like you...nobody gets unanimous praise ever. The best the timid can hope for is to be unnoticed. Criticism comes to those who stand out." - Seth Godin

Jesus Knew How to Deal With Criticism

Matthew 26:51 NLT - *One of the men with Jesus pulled out a sword and slashed off an ear of the high priest's servant.*

Luke 4:17-21 NLT - *... he unrolled the scroll to the place where it says: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue stared at him intently. Then he said, "This Scripture has come true today before your very eyes!"*

Luke 4:22 NLT - *All who were there spoke well of him and were amazed by the gracious words that fell from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"*

Luke 4:28-30 NIV - *All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.*

Luke 6:26 NIV - *Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.*

James 4:1 NCV - *Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that war within you.*

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Three truths in dealing with criticism:

1. If you _____ the sword everybody loses

Matthew 26:52 NLT - *"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will be killed by the sword"*

How do I handle criticism in a God-honoring way?

1. Consider the _____
Proverbs 27:6 NIV - *Wounds from a friend can be trusted...*
2. Ask God for _____
3. Don't take it _____
4. Respond with _____

2. God is able to _____ you

Matthew 26:53 NLT - *Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?*

Proverbs 2:8 NIV - *(God) guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*

3. God has a greater _____

Matthew 26:54 NLT - *But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?*

Isaiah 55:8-9 TLB - *This plan of mine is not what you would work out, neither are my thoughts the same as yours! For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours, and my thoughts than yours.*

Hebrews 11:39-40 NIV - *These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better ...*