

Attitude Check

Lesson Six • Numbers 12:1-16

A Critical Attitude

Attitude Check: Replace a Critical Attitude

A continuously critical attitude toward those around me will CONSUME all that is healthy and joy-producing in my life.

Seven Truths about Criticism

Truth 1: Criticism Is an Attitude that EVERYONE Must Guard Against!

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12:1

Truth 2: Criticism Attacks the PETTY Issues of Others to Cover-Up the Root Issues in Our Hearts!

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12:1

Root Issues that Often Hide Under the Cover of Criticism:

- Criticism may be a cover-up for UNFORGIVENESS and bitterness.
- Criticism may be a cover-up for ENVY, jealousy, or resentment.
- Criticism may be a cover-up for FAILURE in our lives.

Truth 3: Criticism Exalts SELF While Tearing Down Others!

So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it. Numbers 12:2

Truth 4: Criticism Is PAINFUL to the People We Criticize!

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) Numbers 12:3

Truth 5: Criticism Is Often FOOLISH On Our Part!

So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. Numbers 12:11

Truth 6: Criticism Is a SIN that God Judges!

So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!" Numbers 12:9-12

So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!" Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again." Num. 12:13-14

God's Response to Miriam's Sin:

- Miriam encountered severe HUMILIATION.
- Miriam endured temporary SEPARATION.
- Miriam experienced complete RESTORATION.

Truth 7: Criticism HALTS the Flow of God's Blessing!

So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again. And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran. Numbers 12:15-16

My Response:

REPENT of a critical attitude and REPLACE it with an attitude of love.