

# SEVEN STEPS TO TAKE WHEN CRITICIZED

## OUTLINE

### INTRODUCTION

#### I. PASS THE “TRIAL” OF BITTER WATER — NUMBERS 5:11-31

- A. Thank God for the lesson He is going to teach you.
- B. Criticism causes bystanders to step back, watch and wait.
- C. Bitterness on your part proves your critics are right.
- D. Bitterness will also defile you.
- E. There are rewards for passing this test.
- F. It is no wonder that God says to rejoice when falsely accused.

#### II. TRACE CRITICISM TO ITS REAL SOURCE — PROVERB 14:15

- A. Vocal Critics are usually spokesmen for silent critics.
- B. You need the actual words from those who spoke them.
- C. Now there are some things that you need to find out about this criticism.
  - 1. *Are they criticizing the message content?*
  - 2. *Maybe it was the message emphasis?*
  - 3. *Maybe it was delivery?*
  - 4. *Maybe it is your appearance?*
  - 5. *Are they criticizing the use of your time?*
  - 6. *Maybe it is outside involvement?*
  - 7. *Maybe the fault is in your family?*
  - 8. *Maybe it is your financial decisions?*
  - 9. *Maybe it is your leadership?*
  - 10. *Maybe it is your attitude?*
  - 11. *Maybe it is your counsel?*
  - 12. *Maybe someone feels you are neglecting them?*
- D. Learn the motivational gift of your critic if possible.
  - 1. *Maybe it is because she has the gift of being a server.*
  - 2. *Maybe he has the gift of organizing.*
- E. You need to discern the motivations behind the criticism.
  - 1. *Begin by believing he has a desire to improve you, your message, or your ministry.*
  - 2. *If that does not work look for some hidden motives.*
  - 3. *Maybe he has a desire to gain control.*
  - 4. *Maybe he is simply rejecting the truth because he wants to justify himself.*
  - 5. *Maybe they feel vengeance for personal offenses.*
  - 6. *Taking on the burden of being offended for someone else.*

#### III. RESPOND QUICKLY AND WISELY TO YOUR CRITICS — JAMES 3:5

- A. You need to keep your church leadership and church family well informed and spiritually prepared. (Matthew 18:16)
- B. We should welcome criticism with an approachable spirit.
- C. Acknowledge any faults and ask for forgiveness.
- D. You need to deal swiftly and scripturally with a scorner and a reviler.

#### **IV. KNOW THAT YOUR MESSAGE & CALLING ARE FROM GOD – GAL. 6:4**

- A. You should review God's leading to the present.
- B. You should realize that God's calling involves fiery trials.
- C. You need to realize that grace comes only through humbling.
- D. You need to relate criticism to the testing of your work.
- E. Accept affliction as the deepening of your spiritual work.

#### **V. ENCOURAGE YOUR HEART IN THE LORD — 1 SAMUEL 30:6**

- A. Personalize the Psalms; memorize or study the Psalms and Proverbs.
- B. Read First and Second Peter each evening.
- C. Engraft Romans 6 and 8 into your soul.
- D. Read biographies of great Christians and triumphant devotionals to your family.

#### **VI. LOOK AT FEAR AS AN INVITATION TO DEFEAT — 2 TIMOTHY 1:7**

- A. Having fears allows Satan to bring them to pass in your life.
- B. In the Bible God warns us 450 times that we should not fear.
- C. Learn to recognize your fears.
  - 1. *Rejection.*
  - 2. *Many people fear the loss of their jobs.*
  - 3. *Loss of reputation.*
  - 4. *Some people are afraid to fail.*
  - 5. *Fear of other people.*
- D. Match each fear with a scriptural hope.
- E. Conquer fear by mature love and God's Presence.

#### **VII. LET GOD CONFIRM YOUR MINISTRY — 1 PETER 5:10-11**

- A. You need to watch Him work supernaturally through your deeper spiritual work.
- B. Expect your good works to shame your critics.
- C. Review the challenge of 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- D. Condemn those who oppose God's word by not giving up.

### **CONCLUSION**

### **PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT**