

**Disciples: When Criticized,
Stay Focused on Your Mission”
Matthew 9: 1-17**

May 15, 2022

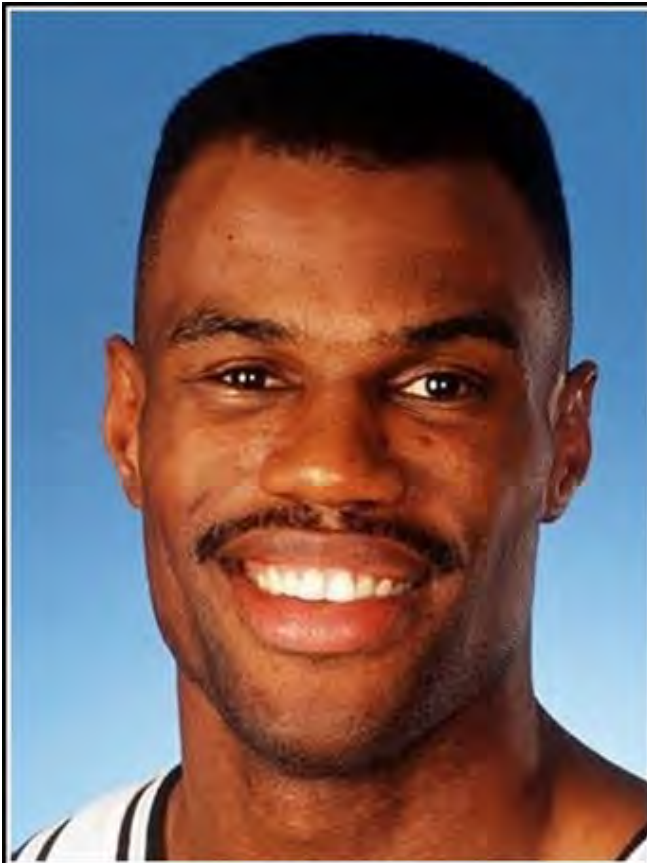
Criticism = the act of judging unfavorably; fault finding

Critical spirit = is never pleased; looks for faults; easily provoked

Constructive criticism = constructive feedback, supported by examples to help improve in some area; to build up, make stronger, improve, not tear down



**to avoid
criticism
say nothing,
do nothing,
be nothing.**



You're always going to face criticism,
you're always going to face
challenges, but those things are
there to make you stronger and
more committed.

— *David Robinson* —

AZ QUOTES

Stand for nothing > *Impact nothing*

Stand for something > *Impact something*

Stand for Christ > *Impact the world*

To stand for something, *one must be willing to accept CRITICISM!!*



STAY ON THE MISSION



Verse 1 - 5

Jesus and the paralytic – *Criticism!*

Friends of the paralytic had faith in Jesus to heal –
faith moves the heart of God!

Faith in Christ is very important – **Hebrews 11:6**

Scribes (*lawyers*) criticize (*fault find*) within
themselves - ***their thoughts betraying them!***

Jesus knows men's thoughts – ***JESUS IS GOD!***

Satan cannot read minds! Demons cannot read
minds! Psychics cannot read minds!

God knows what you are thinking – *kind of scary!!*

Scripture tells us that only God can forgive sins –
Isaiah 43: 25

Verse 5 - 7

**That the world may know – JESUS IS GOD!
- *Criticism!***

All cults, all world religions, do not believe that
JESUS IS GOD!

***“But that you may know that
the Son of Man has power on
earth to forgive sins”
verse 6***

Verse 8

**The multitudes glorified God -
*Criticism ignored!***

LESSON:

Ignore the criticism, stay focused on the mission!

The multitudes glorified God, honored and praised God, YET, they think Jesus is a mere man!

Jesus did not look special; the European version of Jesus is false – Isaiah 53: 2

Jesus was swarthy – a dark-skinned, middle eastern Jew

Verse 9

**Matthew is called – He will experience
*Believer's Criticism***

Phases of Discipleship:

Come see

Come serve

Come suffer

Come be criticized

Come be different!

Matthew accepted his call and followed Jesus!

“He left all, rose up, and followed Him”

Luke 5: 28



**Matthew did come see,
come serve, come suffer!**

**Slain with a halberd in the
city of Nadabah, Ethiopia in
A.D. 60**

Verse 10 - 13

**Jesus eats with sinners -
*Prejudice Criticism***

Jesus to the prejudiced:

“Those who are well have no need for a physician, but those who are sick”

Jesus hits them right between the peepers:

“Go learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice’”

These religious zealots were about sacrifices (*the show*) – their hearts were far from God!

Proverbs 15: 8 and 21: 3

Isaiah 1: 12-13

What sacrifice will God receive? Psalm 51: 17

Verse 14 - 17

John's disciples confront Jesus-
Religious Criticism

Jesus looks and sounds like a man; John's disciples address Him *man to man*

- They do not know they are standing in front of their Creator!

Jesus helps John's disciples understand with an illustration – *garments and wineskins*

- 1) **Don't put a new patch on an old garment – *it will tear and not hold***
- 2) **New wine into old wineskins – *wine will expand and break the wineskin and spill***

Jesus is teaching John's disciples by illustration:

- Old is the Law with its rules and regulations
- New is the Spirit of grace

The New Covenant, instituted by Jesus' death and resurrection, is a Grace Covenant - Ephesians 2: 8-9

The Law kills, the Spirit gives life -

2 Corinthians 3: 5-6

The Old Covenant cannot be mixed with the New Covenant

The Protestant Reformers gave us five “Solas”:

Sola is Latin for “only”

- 1) **Sola Scriptura** = *Scripture alone*
- 2) **Sola Fide** = *Faith alone*
- 3) **Sola Gratia** = *Grace alone*
- 4) **Sola Christo** = *Christ alone*
- 5) **Sola Deo Gloria** = *to the glory of God alone*

Those few who embrace these beliefs, today, will face criticism!

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Criticism: No one likes it, no one relishes it, but everyone experiences it

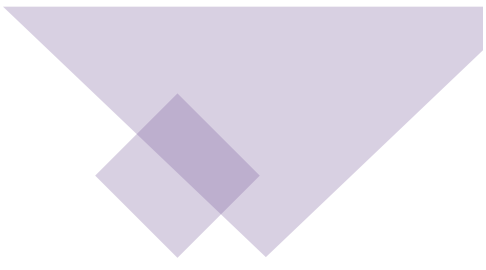
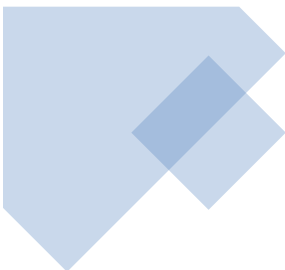
Yet, only a few (*a remnant*) experience criticism for Christ – ***most blend!***

The compromised Church will not experience criticism, *they walk lock step with the world!*

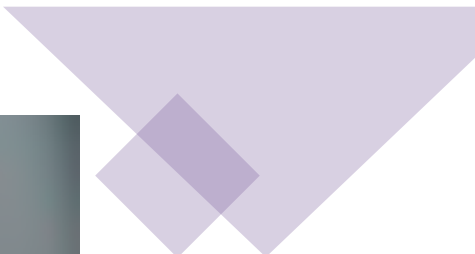
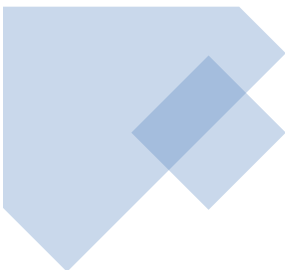
Criticism is ramping up, you sense it, you are in the way of what the world calls progress!

When criticized for Christ, know you are in fine company!

Acts 5: 40-42



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST,

***HAVE THE COURAGE TO BE
CRITICIZED!***

STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR MISSION!