

*Living Waters Chapel*  
1900 Jay St., Lebanon, PA 17046

~ *SERMON NOTES* ~

Pastor D. Dean Cover  
March 16, 2008

**SERMON SERIES:** *“Lord, Whatever It Takes, Change My Attitude Before It’s Too Late!”*

**SERMON TITLE:** *“Confronting the Critical Attitude that Keeps Us in the Desert”*

**SCRIPTURE:** Numbers 12:1-12

**THEME:** The person consumed with a critical attitude will not know the joy-filled life that God promises.

**INTRODUCTION:** It’s an amazing truth that two people can look at the very same circumstance and react to it entirely differently based on the attitude they choose. Many are familiar with the words Christ spoke regarding a critical attitude in Matthew 7:3: *“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye\* when you have a log in your own?”* Unless we accept personal responsibility for our own attitudes, we’ll never be able to change our tendency to be critical of others to see the best in people.

**I. DEFINING A CRITICAL ATTITUDE?**

- A. The difference between a critical attitude and complaining:
  - 1. Complaining (chapter 11) relates to situations
  - 2. Criticism (chapter 12) relates to people
- B. *Criticism is dwelling upon the perceived faults of another and the motive is not for the person’s good.*
- C. How do you know if it’s genuine constructive criticism that you want to give?

- 1. You will take the time to pray for the person
- 2. You will help the person towards a solution

D. Miriam is proof that we’re all vulnerable to criticism

E. Criticism is not just wrong it’s a sin (12:11)

**II. THE EFFECTS OF A CRITICAL ATTITUDE**

A. Criticism affects our relationship with God (1 John 1:9)

B. Our critical attitude hurts us

C. A critical attitude destroys our fellowship with others (Galatians 5:14, 15)

**III. WHAT’S AT THE ROOT OF A CRITICAL SPIRIT?**

A. Criticism is usually a cover-up for the real issue

B. Criticism covers up jealousy and resentment (1 Cor. 3:3).

C. Criticism covers up our own pain and personal failure

D. Criticism is painful (James 3:5)

E. Criticism stops the flow of God’s blessing

**CONCLUSION:** Let it be known that criticism is not one of the gifts of the Spirit. The truth is you can change. If you will acknowledge your need and yield to the Holy Spirit, you can be known more for your compassion than your criticism!

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