



Your
story

matters.

JAN 18, 2026

Message Notes



Milestones - Part 2

“Everyone's a Critic” (Part 1)

Tom Lundeen | Jan 18, 2026

Note **Mark 9:2-4**

It is much easier to be critical than to be _____.

(Benjamin Disraeli)

Old saying: *Everyone's a _____.*

For every action, there is an equal and _____ criticism.

(Harrison's Postulate)

A critic is someone who points out how _____ other people do what the critic does not do at all.

Note **Exodus 5:21; 14:11-12, 31; 15:24; 16:1-3**

If we're going to live on _____, criticism will come our way at times.

What did Moses' experience in Exodus 15-17 tell us about _____ critics/criticism?

1. _____ Will Always Find Something/Someone to Criticize

Note **Exodus 15:22-25; 17:1-2; 16:1-3**

It takes no _____/ability in a broken world filled with people (including us) that have spiritually defective DNA to be a critic!

Critical people tend to focus on perceived problems of the present, while ignoring God's faithfulness in the past, and _____

His promises for the future (note **Exodus 16:3**).

...the criticisms Moses experienced in Exodus 15-17 and the kind of criticism we're unpacking today are not constructive, but _____ criticism.

What's at the _____ of negative critics and criticisms?

A. A _____ shortage - note **Exodus 16:3; 17:3** - Pain, problems, disappointment, delay, and frustration can cause us and others to lose a sense of gratitude and develop a _____ attitude. *Growling stomachs soon produced grumbling _____.* (Hamby) When faced with struggles/difficulties we can't _____ or solve, it's easy to turn to despair/criticism. A critical spirit finds a _____ in a heart/mind that thinks only pleasure and prosperity, not pain and adversity, should ever be experienced. The spiritual discipline of gratitude is emphasized as important for followers of Jesus, in part, to _____ us from the unhealthy path of negative criticism (note **Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18**).

B. An "___" problem (note **Exodus 16:3a; 1:11a, 13-14; 3:7-8a**) - a critical spirit causes us to see things in a _____ way. A critical attitude distorts everything we see, and if things aren't the way we like/want them, criticism, complaining, and grumbling _____ flows from us.

MILESTONES MATTER:

- A grateful heart and a right perspective (God's truth) will keep us from falling into the _____ of a critical spirit.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you went on an African (or Asian) safari, what one thing would you absolutely have to see for your trip to be complete?

1. Pastor Tom quoted Disraeli as saying, “It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.” Share about a time when you have been critical of someone only to find out that you had some of your facts wrong. How did you respond when you realized it?
2. Pastor Tom observed that “Critical people tend to focus on perceived problems of the present, while ignoring God’s faithfulness in the past...” such as when the Israelites started complaining less than a month after their Red Sea escape (See **Exodus 16:1-3**). How has this reality been proven true in your life?
3. Pastor Tom called gratitude a “spiritual discipline”. (See **Ephesians 5:20** & **1 Thessalonians 5:18**). How do you cultivate expressing gratitude as a “discipline” and in what way does it impact critical attitudes in you?
4. Read **Exodus 1:11a, 13-14**, then **Exodus 16:3**. How do you account for the difference between the reality of Exodus 1 (harsh slavery) and the perceptions of **Exodus 16** (“benefits” of Egypt)? Have you seen this same distortion effect when facing present difficulties in your own life, and who do you trust to help you regain perspective?
5. Think back over the last few days and identify complaints/criticisms you had and how you expressed them. Was it constructive or destructive? Did it communicate God’s love, grace, and truth or did it create a need for reconciliation?

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner’s Bible Reading System.

Day One: Luke 17; Psalm 150

Day Two: Numbers 33; Proverbs 26

Day Three: Hebrews 7; 2 Kings 24

Day Four: Titus 2; Ezekiel 27

Day Five: Job 26; Acts 10



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Note **Mark 9:2-4**

It is much easier to be critical than to be correct. (Benjamin Disraeli)

Old saying: *Everyone's a critic.*

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism. (Harrison's Postulate)

A critic is someone who points out how imperfectly other people do what the critic does not do at all.

Note **Exodus 5:21; 14:11-12, 31; 15:24; 16:1-3**

If we're going to live on purpose, criticism will come our way at times. What did Moses' experience in Exodus 15-17 tell us about navigating critics/criticism?

1. Critics Will Always Find Something/Someone to Criticize

Note **Exodus 15:22-25; 17:1-2; 16:1-3**

It takes no skill/ability in a broken world filled with people (including us) that have spiritually defective DNA to be a critic!

Critical people tend to focus on perceived problems of the present, while ignoring God's faithfulness in the past, and diminishing His promises for the future (note **Exodus 16:3**).

...the criticisms Moses experienced in Exodus 15-17 and the kind of criticism we're unpacking today are not constructive, but destructive criticism.

What's at the core of negative critics and criticisms?

- A.** A gratitude shortage - note **Exodus 16:3; 17:3** - Pain, problems, disappointment, delay, and frustration can cause us and others to lose a sense of gratitude and develop a cynical attitude. *Growling stomachs soon produced grumbling lips.* (Hamby) When faced with struggles/difficulties we can't control or solve, it's easy to turn to despair/criticism. A critical spirit finds a home in a heart/mind that thinks only pleasure and prosperity, not pain and adversity, should ever be experienced. The spiritual discipline of gratitude is emphasized as important for followers of Jesus, in part, to divert us from the unhealthy path of negative criticism (note **Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18**).
- B.** An "I" problem (note **Exodus 16:3a; 1:11a, 13-14; 3:7-8a**) - a critical spirit causes us to see things in a distorted way. A critical attitude distorts everything we see, and if things aren't the way we like/want them, criticism, complaining, and grumbling naturally flows from us.

MILESTONES MATTER:

- A grateful heart and a right perspective (God's truth) will keep us from falling into the abyss of a critical spirit.

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