

02/26/17

PASTOR DAN BRITTS

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DEALING WITH CRITICISM

Introduction

A. Observations About Criticism (II Samuel 16:5-8)

1. Criticism Often Comes When We Least Need It.
2. Criticism Often Comes When We Least Deserve It.
3. Criticism Often Seems to Come From People Who Are Least Qualified to Give It.
4. Criticism Often Comes in a Way That Is Least Helpful.

Reflection: How would you have responded if you were King David?

B. Insights on Responding to Criticism (II Samuel 16:9-14)

1. Listen to What the Other Person Is Saying. (Prov. 18:13; James 1:19)
2. Accept the Criticism As the Other Person's Way of Seeing Things.
3. Don't Accuse the Person of Being Overly-Sensitive or Easily Irritated.
4. Don't Bring Up Another Subject or Attempt to Evade the Present Issue.
5. Be Open to the Criticism and Consider Its Validity Before You Respond.
6. Listen to What God Is Trying to Teach You Through the Criticism. (Prov. 23:12)
7. Ask for An Opportunity to Respond. (Prov. 15:1)

Questions for Reflection

1. Which of the observations about criticism noted above have you experienced in your own life? When?
2. Which one of the insights on responding to criticism do you especially need to keep in mind? Why?