



Living the Jesus Way - Part 2

Session 1:

How to Deal with Criticism

Matthew 7:1-6

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

⁶ "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Notes:

1. Distinguish Judgment from Judgmentalism
2. Treat other people as God treats you
3. Avoid Fault Finding Like the Plague
4. Welcome constructive criticism
5. Try finding "a kernel of truth" in every critical attack
6. Learn how to critique constructively
7. Sow mercy, kindness, and love

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What type of criticism do you have leveled against you?

2. What are your strengths and weaknesses in offering criticism constructively?

3. What do you think is the line between judgment and judgmentalism? How do you know if you have crossed it? What are times when we need to exercise judgment?

4. Think of time when you didn't handle criticism well. Keeping Jesus' teaching on criticism in mind, discuss what could have been done differently.

5. We live in a highly judgmental society. How can we respond to our critics in a way that sets a better example?

6. What does Jesus mean when he says, "Do not give to dogs what is sacred, do not throw your pearls before pig. If you do they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces"?