

FROM CRITICIZING TO ...

Matt 7:1-5

- "Complaining [criticizing] is an attitude choice that if left unchecked will wither my capacity to experience joy and genuine thankfulness."

- Complaining is about circumstances.

- Criticizing is about people.

- James McDonald, "Lord Change My Attitude before its too Late."

**WORDS REVEAL THE SPIRITUAL  
CONDITION OF MY HEART; MATT.  
15:17-19**

- "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup>"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. <sup>19</sup>"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. -- (NASB)

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRITICIZING AND JUDGING.

- A. We make a judgment about someone.
  - 1. Their actions confirm it..
  - 2. A "judgment" tree is planted in our hearts about that person. It grows or dies depending upon the actions of that person.
- B. We pick the fruit from the tree by our criticizing the person before others.

## EPHESIANS 4:29

- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.

1. WE HAVE A NATURAL TENDENCY  
TO JUDGE OTHERS IN A CRITICAL  
WAY.

- A. Our inheritance from Adam is the root of our tendency to "stinking thinking."
- B. Matt 7:3; speck compared to a 2 x 4.
- C. The actions of the two pregnant women:
  - Matt 1:18 – Mary was "found to be pregnant"
  - Luke 1:24 – Eliz kept herself in seclusion for 5 months.

- CRITICIZING IS LIKE A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE THAT IMPACTS THE CRITICIZER AND THE ONE CRITICIZED.

A. This is particularly the case if our "judgment tree" has been planted for awhile:

- Pharisees – served Beelzebub. Matt 12:22-24.
- Temple leaders – John 9:29-30 (man born blind healed)

B. "Tree is Contagious."

- Charlie Brown's friends kept him "wilted."

2. "JUDGING IS NECESSARY BUT DANGEROUS." (KEN SANDE)

- A. Joseph "judged" Mary, **charitably**.
- B. John Bapt - Herod and Herodias.  
Mark 6:18-19
- C. 7:6, dogs, swine; 7:15, beware of  
false prophets ... know by fruits
- D. Matt 18:15, Prov 27:6



## JESUS FORBIDS JUDGING UNTIL:

- A. We take responsibility for how we might have contributed to the problem (that we both have). Matt 7:3-4
- B. We must make a special effort to "see clearly" (only God can truly see clearly):
  1. Find out the facts, directly, all sides;
  2. Understand the "why" behind an action.

### 3. WHEN IS JUDGING/CRITICIZING A SIN?

- A. When it is based on appearances and without the facts.
  - Luke 7:39, Simon (log) judges woman (speck of dust)
- B. When the purpose is to harm/slander or turn others against another person.
  - Miriam of Moses. "Then Miriam and Aaron **spoke against** Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); Num. 12:1

### 3. WHEN IS JUDGING/CRITICIZING A SIN?

C. When we do not have the  
"right." Impossible to have all  
the facts.

1. Teen/child vs parent
2. Student vs teacher
3. Athlete vs coach
4. When unforgiveness is present  
towards them.

D. When it is untrue or an  
exaggeration.

### 3. WHEN IS JUDGING/CRITICIZING A SIN?

E. Against a fellow believer (on the basis of hearsay?).

- James 4:11-12, 5:9
- Rom 14:1-4
- Phil 2:14
- 1 Cor 2:14-16

## COLOSSIANS 4:6

- Let your speech *always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt*, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

4. A CRITICAL ATTITUDE MUST BE  
ADDRESSED SPIRITUALLY TO BE  
CHANGED.

A. Matt 7:1-6.

1. We are all sinners.
2. Because we see it differently does not make it right.
3. Only God has the eyes to see clearly.

B. Replace the judgment tree with a  
grace tree.

- A. Forgive those who have hurt us.
- B. Give grace to those who have misstepped.

## NEXT STEPS

1. Identify the "judgement trees" you have in your heart. Confess as sin the "unwholesome" words that have borne fruit off these trees..
2. Think about the people in your life you complain about the most. Are they impacting your heart spiritually?
3. Think about someone you recently criticized. Do you really have "clear eyes" to see them? Is your judgment clouded by your sin?

## NEXT STEPS

4. Start a spiritual war against criticizing:
  - Replace the tree of judgment with a tree of grace. Instead of criticizing them thank God for them.