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## Be Careful How We Criticize Because The Lord Can Hear Numbers 12:1-2

### What is criticism?

- Criticism is dwelling on the perceived faults of another with no view to their good.
- Criticism is negative talk about perceived faults.
- The difference between complaining and criticism is:
  - ✓ Complaining deals with circumstances and situations.
  - ✓ Criticism deals with people.
  - ✓ Criticism is negative talk without offering to help.

Let us understand some things about criticism from the text.

### Criticism is wrong

- It is wrong because it hurts our relationship with God. Vs. 11
- Paul tells us to think. Phil. 4:8
- It is wrong because it hurts us. Vs. 2
- It is wrong because it hurts our relationship with others. Vs. 1

### Criticism focuses on the petty Vs. 1

- People will use criticism to cover personal failures. Vs. 2

### Criticism falsely inflates our selves

- What criticism tries to do is get the focus off of me and my faults and on to you and your faults.

### Criticism is painful

- When we are guilty of having a critical attitude, we are hurting the ones closest to us. That is what Miriam and Aaron did. Vs. 1

### Criticism will render good people ineffective

- People who have gifts and talents that are doing things for God are often rendered ineffective because of criticism.

### Criticism can sometimes be just a 'stumble'. Vs. 11

### Criticism will stop the flow of God's blessing

- God wants to do so many things for us, but He is hindered and limited because we are choosing not to do what will release those blessings.

**The best way to deflect criticism is to hand it over to God.**