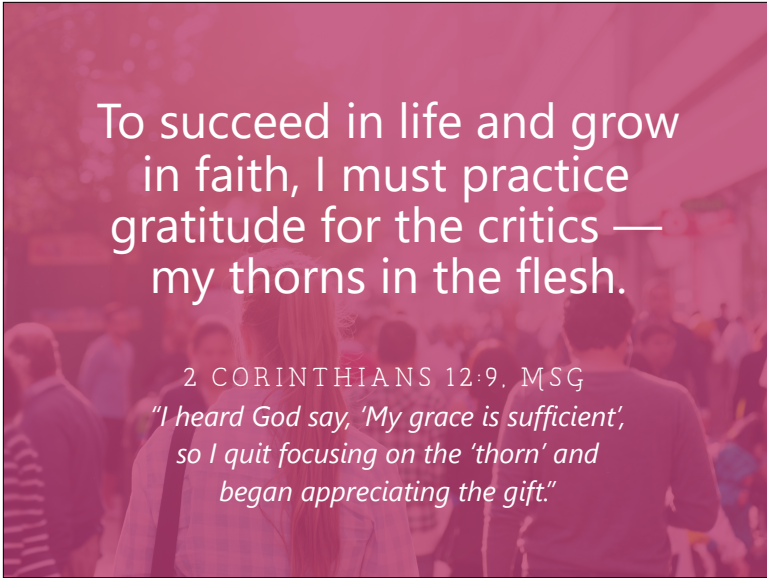




I NEED THE CRITIC!

That is why God gives critics access to me.
My challenge is to limit their hurtful
negativity yet leverage their helpful
criticism for positive change.



To succeed in life and grow
in faith, I must practice
gratitude for the critics —
my thorns in the flesh.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9. MSG
*"I heard God say, 'My grace is sufficient',
so I quit focusing on the 'thorn' and
began appreciating the gift."*

2 SAMUEL 16:5-14

⁵As King David fled Jerusalem, Shimei, a man from Saul's clan, came out and cursed. ⁶He pelted David and his officials with stones, though the king's troops were on his right and left. ⁷As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, you murdering scoundrel!"

⁸ "God has repaid you for all the blood you shed in Saul's household, in whose place you have reigned. God has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!"

⁹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to David, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

¹⁰ But David said, "What does this have to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

¹¹ David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My own son is trying to kill me. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. ¹² It may be that God will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."

¹³ So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust. ¹⁴ And the king, along with all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there David refreshed himself.



THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING

From understanding springs the empathy and patience necessary for David-like grace.

THE CRITICS' MOTIVES

1

The critic is often frustrated.

VERSE 5

"Shimei was from King Saul's clan."

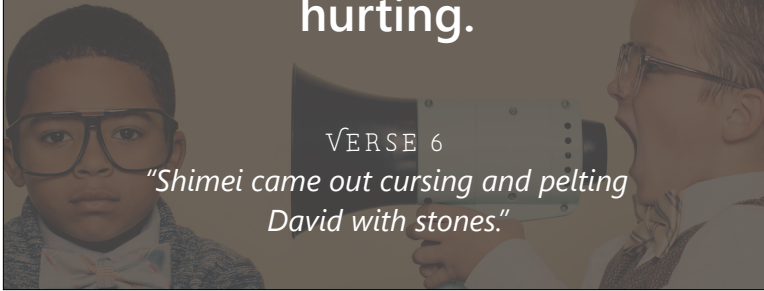
THE CRITICS' MOTIVES

2

The critic is typically hurting.

VERSE 6

"Shimei came out cursing and pelting David with stones."





HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE!

THE CRITICS' MOTIVES

3

The critic is usually arrogant.

VERSE 7

"God repaid you by handing your kingdom to Absalom."



THE CRITICS' MOTIVES

4

The critic is always persistent.

VERSE 14

"David and his men arrived exhausted."

2 TYPES OF CRITICS

1

THE TOXIC CRITIC
They need strict boundaries!

2

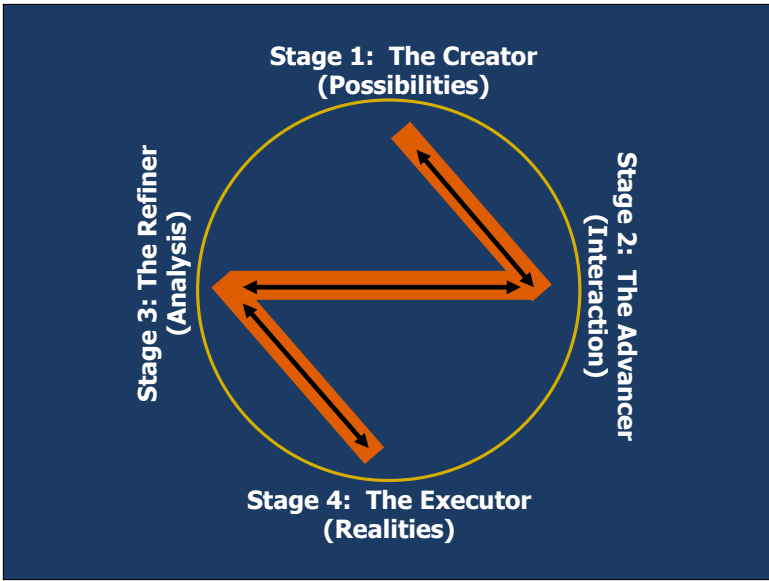
THE GENUINE BUT MISGUIDED CRITIC
They deserve my attention!

CRITICS EXPLAINED

They believe their criticism is justified.

They believe their criticism is helpful.

They believe their criticism solves problems.



COPING WITH A
CRITIC

I must face the critic within.

LUKE 6:42

"First take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

COPING WITH A
CRITIC

I must put myself in the critic's shoes.

Nine times out of ten, critics don't speak because they are mean, but because they are miserable.



COPING WITH A
CRITIC

I must open my eyes to
what the critic says.

2 SAMUEL 16:10-11

*"If the Lord has told him to curse me...
God told him to do it."*



EMOTIONAL
INTELLIGENCE

...allows me to chew
the meat and spit out
the bones.



PROVERBS 15:30

*"He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at
home among the wise."*

"The critics are the unpaid watchmen of my soul."

F. STANLEY JONES



COPING WITH A
CRITIC

I must limit the criticism I will accept.

Mean-spirited criticism meant to devastate or destroy says more about the critic than about me.

TO RECEIVE OR REJECT

STEP ONE

Discern their motives.

"He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

TO RECEIVE OR REJECT

STEP TWO

Determine your rules.

Make use of a Pro/Con Card

Pro: List 3 things you like and *why* you like them.

Con: List 3 things you would change, and *how* you would change them.



COPING WITH A
CRITIC

I must keep my dreams
alive.

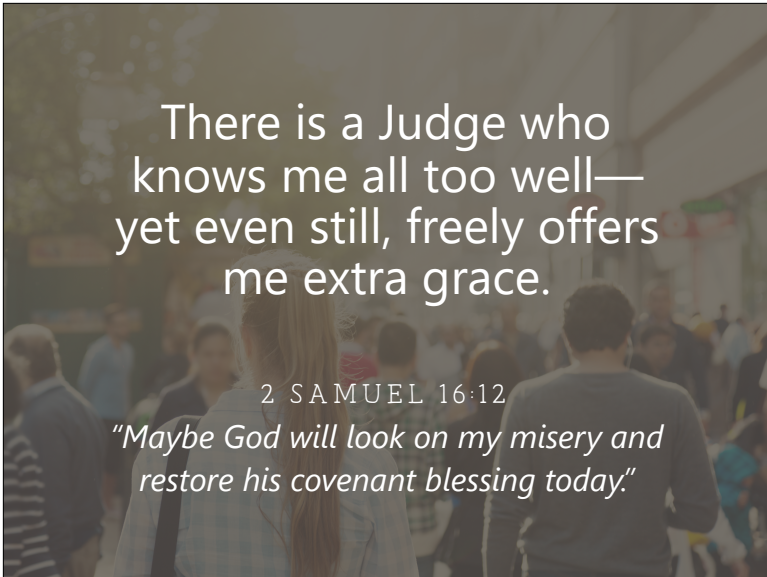
2 SAMUEL 16:14

"And there David refreshed himself."

REMEMBER!

*"There is no city in the world where
they have a statue to a critic."*

JEAN SIBELIUS



There is a Judge who
knows me all too well—
yet even still, freely offers
me extra grace.

2 SAMUEL 16:12

*"Maybe God will look on my misery and
restore his covenant blessing today."*

EXPECT THE
CRITICISM OF A
CRITIC...

BUT LIVE SO
NOBODY WILL
BELIEVE THEM.

EXTRA

GRACE REQUIRED



PART 3 The Critic
