



Part 3: How to Handle Criticism // Jeff Brodie // March 23, 2025

Someone's talking about you. Maybe it's unfair. Perhaps it's even true. Either way, the criticism stings. So, what now? Defend yourself? Clap back? Let it ruin your week? Jesus was constantly criticized, but he never let it control him. How do you handle people who are against you? Let's talk about how Jesus would handle criticism.

Scripture: [Luke 6:27-36 NLT](#); [James 1:19 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: When facing criticism, focus on your character, not your critic.

Digging In:

Reminder: The goal is always a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.

1. Have you ever received criticism that stuck with you—either positively or negatively? Why do you think criticism has such a powerful impact on us emotionally?
2. How do you typically respond when someone is critical of you? Do you shut down, get defensive, internalize it, or something else? What does this reveal about your character (good or bad)?
3. Read Luke 6:27-31 together and discuss the following questions:
 - a. What is your initial reaction to Jesus' command to love your enemies and bless those who hurt you (v. 27-28)?
 - b. What do Jesus' words in v. 29-30 actually mean? Why do you think he ties generosity to how we respond to critics? How do we strike a balance between being a doormat and keeping the door open for reconciliation?
 - c. What does "do to others as you would have them do to you" (v. 31) look like when someone unfairly criticizes you? What does this look like if you are in the wrong?
4. James 1:19 calls us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry." Which of those three do you struggle with the most and why?
5. What would it look like to respond to criticism with curiosity instead of defensiveness? How could you "exchange manuals instead of remotes" in your next hard conversation?
6. Is there a particular critic in your life you need to forgive—or keep the door open with—even if they were unfair? What's your next step with this person?
7. What's one specific way you want to grow in how you handle criticism this week?

Looking Forward:

This week, before you react to criticism or offer it, pause and ask: What's going on in my heart right now? Am I responding from love, humility, and truth, or ego and emotion? Remember, criticism reveals your character—how you respond shows who you're becoming.