



Believing Past The Criticism (Part Three)
(How do you manage inner and outer criticism?)

Date: August 17, 2025

Statement:

- I have fought this fight for many years. Sometimes, my biggest critic is me—looking back and forward in my life, judging what might have been a better decision.
- Today we will talk about how to balance the inner and the outer voices of criticism.
- We will look at a man that was healed after a long season of illness. He is criticized by outside voices who should have been celebrating with him.

Text: John 5:10–13

Series Summary:

1. Believing Beyond the **Crowd** (Has your environment limited your faith?)
2. Believing In Your **Responsibility** (What are your responsibilities? John 5:8-15)
3. Believing Past Your **Critics** (How do you respond to criticism? John 5:8–18)
4. Believing Enough to **Never Return** (Have you returned to a bad habit? John 5:14–15)
5. Believing In The Power of Hunger (What are you hungry for in your life? Proverbs 16:26)

1. An Example of Outer Criticism

1. They Criticized him for breaking the Sabbath (He broke their view of honoring the Sabbath)

- 8 Then **Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”** 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. **The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,** 10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, **“It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”** 11 But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ” 12 So they asked him, **“Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”** 13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

2. Jesus Criticized the Lame Man for His Past Choices



- **14** Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. *Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.*”

3. The Leaders Criticized Jesus for Healing the Lame Man

- **15** The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well. **16** So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.

4. Jesus Ignores the Outside Critics (Basically he says, “I don’t have time, I am working”)

- **17** In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.”

Note: They tried to kill him after helping this lame man because he told them

- **18** For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. ([John 5:8–18](#), NIV)

Conclusion: The Danger of Confusing Criticism With Counseling

Text: Proverbs 15:31

“Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise.”

Closing Thoughts:

As you mature, you slowly develop the skill of ignoring unwise outside critics. At the same time, learning to be fair when critiquing yourself becomes a survival tactic that protects you from extremes.

Next Time: Believing Enough to Never Return

Read Ahead: John 5:14