

Message Notes

Nehemiah Part 3: Deal with Criticism

Nehemiah chapter 4

→ the Aristotelian way to avoid criticism

#1 Criticism is unavoidable for those who follow Christ.

→ bewildered by questions - **vs. 1-3**

→ did he really pray that? - **vs. 4-6**

#2 Deal with criticism by redirecting it to God.

→ trouble all around - **vs. 7-12**

→ fear makes you forgetful - **vs. 13-15**

#3 Deal with criticism by remembering God.

→ the best outcome - **vs. 16**

#4 Don't let criticism get to your heart.

Don't let compliments go to your head.

Group Questions

Nehemiah Part 3: Deal with Criticism

Nehemiah chapter 4

1. In what area of life do you find yourself most sensitive to criticism? Why do you think that is?
2. **Read Nehemiah 4:1-3.** Although the questions Sanballat asked were designed to sting, they also demonstrate that he did not fully understand what they were doing or why they were doing it. Criticism is often given by someone who doesn't know the whole story.
What does this imply when others criticize you?

What does this imply when you criticize others?
3. **Read Nehemiah 4:4-6.** Nehemiah could have fired criticism back at his critics, or he could have reacted hastily to appease his critics. What did he do instead, and how can you apply this to your own life?
4. **Read Nehemiah 4:13-14.** Criticism can paralyze a person when it highlights a their lack of ability, potential, or commitment. How can "remembering God" help you deal with criticism in a healthy way during those times?
5. Where do you tend to let people's compliments go to your head? What can you do to improve that?
6. In what area do you tend to let people's criticisms get to your heart? What can you do to change that?