



## Podcast Show Notes

### Watch Your Mouth - CRITICIZE

This episode highlights icons of society who soldiered through the harshest criticism to accomplish their dreams and fulfill their purpose. Our "That Was Then" segment dissects the sibling rivalry between Moses (the 2nd most criticized man on earth besides Jesus), his big sister Miriam and his slightly older brother Aaron.

In our "This Is Now" segment we rehash the blistering criticism faced by Martin Cooper (inventor of the cell phone), Steve Jobs, Jennifer Hudson and the Beatles. From them we learn the difference between constructive and destructive criticism.

### Opening & Overview (3½ minutes)

### THAT WAS THEN (12 minutes, 41 seconds)

### [Lead into episode's content]: (1 minute, 50 seconds)

- **DEFINITION:** According to Google dictionary, **CRITICIZE** means "to indicate the faults of (someone or something) in a disapproving way".
- **APPROXIMATE # OCCURRENCES IN SCRIPTURE:** 64 times
- **BIBLICAL ACCOUNT TAKEN FROM:** the book of Numbers chapter 12 in the New Living Translation from Bible.com read by Todd Busted
- **FEATURED TEXT:** verses 1 and 8. Verse 1 says "While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron **criticized** Moses because he had married a Cushite woman." And verse 8 kicks off GOD's response: "I speak to him face to face, clearly and not in riddles! He sees the LORD as He is. So why were you not afraid to **criticize** my servant Moses?"

### Full Biblical Account of Numbers 12 (NLT) read by Todd Busted: (2 minutes)

### Commentary by Dorma Guice

- If you followed the Israelites' migration from Egypt in the Book of Exodus or if you're a scholar of the Written Torah or the Pentateuch, or simply binge-watch Cecil B. Demille's The Ten Commandments every Easter (as I do), you're likely somewhat familiar with these folks who rank amongst the most famed siblings in Biblical History – Miriam, Aaron and Moses – the "Big 3" – chosen by GOD to lead His people out of bondage and into the Promised Land.

- *If the Torah ended there, it would appear you couldn't ask for a better family. But then comes Numbers 12... As I noted in my blog, this chapter is the backdrop of family drama rearing its ugly head. By now Moses, Aaron and Miriam collectively led over 600,000 Israelite men along with their wives, children and livestock out of Egypt and are up to their eyeballs in wilderness crowd control and crisis management issues. In short, they're getting on each other's last Hebrew nerve.*
- *As time progresses, so does their jealousy and irritation that Moses' power and influence over the people far exceeded theirs. And tiring of their little brother getting all the accolades and exclusive manifestations with the LORD, they did what many siblings do – put him in his place. Scripture goes as far as to mention that there was **criticism** of Moses' wife but doesn't go any further. In large part because that wasn't the real reason for their put downs. **Criticism** is a passive-aggressive trait that stems from pride and often masquerades as expert analysis, but it fools no one. The truth eventually surfaces and exposes the person's real motives – as in Miriam's case.*
- *These guys thought they were speaking behind closed tent flaps, but GOD heard every word. Unlike many earthly fathers who endure sibling rivalry with casual acceptance, GOD exhibits zero-tolerance for **criticizing** His anointed and appointed leaders (Psalm chapter 105, verses 14 and 15 confirms this truth). **“Yet He did not let anyone oppress them. He warned kings on their behalf; “Do not touch my anointed people, and do not hurt my prophets.”** It's bad enough to have the congregation bickering amongst themselves, but it's a higher level of foolishness when leaders are airing each other's dirty laundry. GOD had to check that right away, lest it spread through the entire population.*
- *The stealthy thing about **criticism** is that it creates invisible barriers that keeps nearly everyone involved from making progress. At the time it may feel good to point out the spinach in your neighbor's teeth, but in the end, you might find yourself on the wrong side of history. How many churches and companies today are held back due to **criticism**, in-fighting, one-upmanship, and power grabs? In this account, the entire Jewish population's progress was interrupted for a week while Miriam quarantined outside the camp and learned to let humility and grace rule her communication. Speaking of the wrong side of history, had she projected a few years forward to Moses (being inspired by GOD) to write Deuteronomy chapter 24 verses 8 and 9, she would likely have kept her **criticism** to herself. Take a listen and take note: **“In all cases involving serious skin diseases, be careful to follow the instructions of the Levitical priests; obey all the commands I have given them. Remember what the LORD your GOD did to Miriam as you were coming from Egypt”.** (8 minutes, 55 seconds)*

### **THIS IS NOW (16 minutes, 55 seconds)**

#### **Transition:**

*I hope you got something from our “That was Then” segment. For my contemporary listeners, thanks for hanging in with me. As King Solomon often said, “there's nothing new under the sun”, let's fast-forward a couple thousand years to explore an account of the same Verbal Activity – **CRITICIZE** in our “This Is Now” segment. (20 seconds)*

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7duOoN5YJk> This segment opens with Martin Cooper, the mastermind Motorola engineer and inventor responsible for the first cell phone call which took place on April 3, 1973 from a device that weighed about 2 and a half pounds, required its own briefcase, had a battery life of 20 minutes and costed upwards of \$4,000 when it hit the market about a decade later. You can imagine the **criticism** he received from peers and competitors

*alike who were unable to conceive of having a conversation with someone outside of the same room from a phone without cords and wires. But holding to his vision enabled him to deliver that epic troll to competitor Dr. Joel Engel at Bell Labs (currently known as AT&T). Fast forward 48 years later when there are currently more cell phones than people on the planet, Martin Cooper paved the way for numerous inventions from prodigies like Steve Jobs, Tim Cook and other Apple execs to name a few. And no doubt they racked up a treasure trove of their own blistering criticism.*

- *Criticism can either be constructive or destructive. The difference boils down to the critic's intent. If one truly wants to help improve another's condition, the criticism would likely be followed up with positive feedback, helpful suggestions or a solution to the problem. In the opposite case, the criticism is the only thing put forward.*
- *For example, if you're an American Idol fan or just pick up the highlights in passing on the evening news, no doubt you'll recall this jaw dropping moment from Season 3, which pumped the bellowing sounds of Jennifer Hudson into our living rooms twice a week - until this happened ... <https://medium.com/nobody-knows-nuthin/nobody-knows-nuthin-american-idols-simon-cowell-vs-jennifer-hudson-e7a73aa192c1> and if the sands of time in the pop culture hourglass stopped there, many fans would be suspended in the same gob-smacking shock and outrage expressed by the crowd and judges (beside Simon Cowell, of course). But thankfully time, along with Jennifer's unrelenting faith just kept it moving and inevitably flipped the hourglass on its other head just 2 years later. Remember this redeeming moment...? <https://medium.com/nobody-knows-nuthin/nobody-knows-nuthin-american-idols-simon-cowell-vs-jennifer-hudson-e7a73aa192c1>*
- *We live in a world where criticism is embedded into our daily language and is virtually inescapable. Criticism is found in just about every social dynamic: parent-child, siblings, family, spousal interactions, race relations, the workplace, the media, the church, the Internet and even among strangers. Today, there are careers dedicated to criticism: food critics, movie critics, theater critics, book critics, and music critics to name a few. Invoking our First Amendment privileges, most of us feel we have a right to express criticism to anyone for any reason. However, few people stick around to watch the downstream impact of their belittling once the smoke clears. Oftentimes, the recipient is left with a damaged self-image, anger, resentment, tears, or in some cases, a dogged determination to prove their critics wrong. Wanna hear what that dogged determination and grit sounds like?...*
- *[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q\\_ZzBGPdqE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q_ZzBGPdqE) Of course The Beatles need no introduction 56 years, 14 albums, 227 songs, and countless fans later since their debut in the United States in 1964. However, they didn't start out as beloved as they are now. Reviews were mixed, but largely negative. Critiques predicted that the boy band lacked talent and would soon be obsolete. Have a listen to some of the criticism they received: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNuZPJdvdfs> If any of these critics had the ability to fast-forward fifty years, it's doubtful their reviews would have read the same.*
- *Likewise, if people like Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Steve Jobs, and Martin Cooper, listened to their critics, we could still be piling into horses and buggies, burning oil lamps, and staying home to avoid missing phone calls. Let's face it, critics are not going to go away, and not all criticism is bad. Were it not for criticism, there would be no progress. We have no control over our critics, but we have complete autonomy over our response. In cases where we are the critics, it would serve us (and our beneficiaries) well to mentally fast-forward a few years before opening our mouths.*

**WHO SAID THAT?!!! (54 seconds)**

- Although that segment highlighted a few icons of modern society who soldiered through some of the harshest **criticism**, it's intended to encourage the rest of us. This episode is for every person in pursuit of a dream or goal and needs help overcoming negative opinions from others as well as our own self-defeating thoughts and doubts. May the critiques fuel our determination to succeed as we remember that opinions are like noses – everybody has one, and most have a couple of holes in them! That's a perfect segue into our "Who Said That?!" segment. I believe you'll find today's quote presidential as it comes from one of the most criticized yet revolutionary public servants in history... it simply says, "He has a right to **criticize**, who has a heart to help" – Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

## WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!! & Closing (4 minutes, 11 seconds)

### Outro: "What Did You Say?":

- This brings us to our final segment: "What Did You Say?", where we examine our choice of words and decide to eliminate unhelpful and hurtful speech from our dialogue. The fastest way to decide what to say is to know "WHAT NOT TO SAY". And the best way to determine what not to say is to see what the Bible says about what we say.

Today's queue comes from Ephesians chapter 4 verse 29 in the New Living Translation, which says "**Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.**" In keeping with this Verbal Activity – **CRITICIZE**, the word "helpful" is doing a lot of work – not only in this scripture but in this podcast. Because there will be times when we absolutely have to offer **criticism**, correct errors, speak truth to power and tell people what they don't want to hear. But **how** you say it is just as important as **what** you say. I mentioned earlier that the difference between constructive and destructive **criticism** is your intent. Cutting to the chase, if there is no solution embedded in your critique, then it shouldn't come out of your mouth.

### Affirmation & Closing:

- Until we get together again, ponder and recite this AFFIRMATION: ... "When expressing my opinion, I realize it's just that - an opinion based on my personal (and limited) perspective. Therefore, I am careful to refrain from offering a critique until I am asked or the situation warrants without question. And I offer it in a considerate and helpful way."

### Closing remarks:

- Thanks for listening to this podcast. If you enjoyed it, feel free to share it with everyone and check out the corresponding blogpost at [watchyourmouth.blog](http://watchyourmouth.blog) for more insight. Feel free to download the show notes from our [Podcast](#) page to get links and references to the information shared in this episode. You can also join our [Member](#) Community by subscribing and we'll make sure you never miss one. Members can also share comments, stories and keep the conversation going in our [Discussion](#) Forum. Additionally, please consider supporting this podcast by donating any amount on our [Donate](#) page. Your generosity enables us to keep delivering fresh content and reach more people. Lastly, like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Pinterest](#). Until next time... be well and watch your mouth!

### Sources and Links:

<https://www.watchyourmouth.blog/podcast/episode/4b398151/watch-your-mouth-criticize-youre-not-all-that>

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Martin Cooper's First Cell Phone Call <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7duOoN5YJk>

Steve Jobs Masterfully Handles Blistering Criticism <https://approachableleadership.com/criticism/>

The Marconi Society Bio of Martin Cooper <https://marconisociety.org/fellows/martin-cooper/>

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Help! – The Beatles [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q\\_ZzBGPdqE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Q_ZzBGPdqE)

Hey Jude – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mQER0A0ej0M>

Let It Be (Remastered) – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzvDofiqTKQ>

I Want to Hold Your Hand (Remastered) – The Beatles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1HDt1tknTc>

Yesterday (Remastered) – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCV9oqtwyVA>

While My Guitar Gently Weeps (2018 Mix) – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFDg-pgE0Hk>

Come Together (Remastered 2009) – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oolpPmuK2l8>

In My Life (Remastered 2009) – The Beatles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBcdt6DsLQA>

<https://www.inc.com/jeff-haden/the-beatles-ignored-surprisingly-harsh-early-critics-and-you-should-too.html>

Global Report News <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNuZPJdvdfs>

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