The Cutting Edge of Criticism
Numbers 12 & 16

Critical Mass #1: Miriam & Aaron (Numbers 12)

Critical Mass #2: Korah (Numbers 16)

How should we respond to criticism?

- Expect criticism (12:1; 16:1-3)

*Criticism, whether just or unjust, is part of life*

- Determine the real issue (12:1-2; 16:1-3, 9-10)

*Jealousy & resentment may lie beneath the initial complaint*

- Pray for wisdom before responding (16:4)

*Rather than reacting impulsively, take time to pray so you can respond appropriately*

- Determine when to be silent and when to speak up (12:3; 16:4, 8, 12, 16)

*Not every problem needs to be fixed; not every need is a mandate; not every criticism needs to be answered*

- Let God defend you (12:4-10; 16:20-35)

*God can deal with your critics much more effectively than you can*

- Pray for those who criticize you (12:13; 16:22, 46-47)

*Regardless of what they say or how they treat you, be a blessing to those who want to harm you*