

LESSON 6

COPING WITH CRITICISM

MARK 6:1–56



1 How do you tend to react when people disagree with you?



Read Mark 6:1–56, the Profile of Herod Antipas, and the following notes:

☐ 6:11 ☐ 6:14, 15 ☐ 6:17–19 ☐ 6:20 ☐ 6:22, 23

2 What was God's message to Herod through John the Baptist?



Although Herod had thrown John into prison as a favor to Herodias, he still respected John. Herodias, on the other hand, thoroughly hated John for criticizing her marriage and wasn't satisfied until she had him killed. Today many people still cannot handle criticism. But the problem is that sometimes there is some truth in the comments, and God has something for us to learn. If we carefully evaluate criticism that comes our way and pray about it, we won't miss the lesson to be learned.

3 What public figures can you think of who have lately demonstrated an unwillingness to accept criticism?

4 What bothers you the most about someone's criticism of you?



5 When in the past have you received criticism that really hurt but turned out to be very instructive and helpful for you?

6 Reevaluate what someone has told you recently about your life. What did this person say that you can take to heart?

7 Sometimes we are not open to criticism from those who are closest to us. Who are some of the people who tell you things you need to hear but sometimes ignore? From whom else is it difficult for you to receive criticism?



8 Think about some possible criticism you may face this week. How do you want to react to it? What creative steps can help you respond appropriately?

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A Why were the people of Nazareth angry at Jesus? Why was it so difficult for them to believe in him? Who is like this toward you?

B Why did Jesus send out the disciples? Why did Jesus tell the disciples to travel without any extra supplies for their trip? What tasks does God ask you to do “unprepared”?

C List the principles of witnessing implied by verses 1–13. How can you use these principles?

D Why were there so many differing opinions about the identity of Jesus? Who knew best who Jesus was? In what ways can your life be like theirs?

E What did the disciples learn from watching Jesus feed people, walk on water, and heal the sick (see 6:52)? What can we learn about Christ?

F Why were people following Jesus at this point in his ministry? How do their reasons and motives compare with those of people today who consider themselves Christians?