



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

AUGUST 14, 2011

How It Changes Everything!

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Acts 11:1-30 "Handling Criticism"

Relationships that speak the truth in love are God's primary means of growing us up. Eph. 4:15

How to Receive It: Acts 11:1-18

- ☐ My identity must be completely in Christ. (Acts 4:13; Ps 23:1; Phil 4:13; 2 Pet 1:3)
- ☐ This will give me the ability to face rather than fight or flight. (v4; Eph. 4:25-27; James 1:19-21)
- ☐ Face: Is God trying to say something to me about my life? vv9-12,16 (Pro 10:17, 13:18)
- ☐ Seek to understand rather than to be understood. v2 (Pro 20:5)
- ☐ Most important thing to say: "Thank you very much I appreciate you telling me that and I want you to know that I will certainly consider what you said. Is there anything else you would like to tell me?" (Pro. 15:1; 25:15)
- ☐ If the criticism is true: "You are absolutely correct, I need to ask you to forgive me. I apologize and I want to do my best to make sure it doesn't happen again." (Matt 5:23-26)
- ☐ Either way your ultimate goal is to put on display the glory of God. v18 (1 Cor 10:31)

How to Give it: Acts 11:19-24a

- ☐ People must feel that you sincerely care about them. v24a (1 Pet 4:8)
- ☐ Affirm & celebrate your relationship with them & their progress in the Lord. v23 (Heb 3:12-13, 10:24-25)
- ☐ Attack the problem and not the person: "I know I haven't been easy to live with please forgive me, but when you do a _____ I feel B _____ I wish you would do C _____ instead, but I need to find out if I'm missing something." (Pro 12:18, 16:23)

The Benefits of it: Acts 11:24b-30

- ☐ Christianity is more attractive to outsiders. v24b a great many people were added to the Lord (Matt 5:13-16)
- ☐ Because we are becoming more like Christ. 25c in Antioch 1st called Christians. (John 13:34-35; Eph 5:1-2)
- ☐ It keeps you on track avoiding costly mistakes & living the fullness of life Christ came to give us. v28 Agabus...foretold Great famine (Pro 13:18; 19:20)



Growing

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1) HOW are relationships that speak the truth in love GOD's Primary means OF GROWING us UP (Eph. 4:15, 25)? Truth - love = Superiority (Pride/overly controlling) OR Love - Truth = Inferiority (Fear/overly compliant). Which way DO you tend to lean?

2) Read Acts 11:1-18. HOW Does Peter respond to the criticism? Why is it SO hard to receive criticism and why is it necessary to have your identity completely in Christ? Why is fight or flight our default mode? HOW DO these verses help us to face criticism (Eph. 4:25-27; James 1:19-21)?

3) When being criticized why is it important to ask: Is GOD trying to say something to me ABOUT my life (Pro10:17, 13:18)? Peter isn't defensive BUT he DOES give a defense. What is his argument and HOW DO his critics respond (v18)? Why is it important to seek to understand rather than to be understood (Pro20:5)? What is the most important thing to say to your critics and how should you respond if the criticism is true?

4) Read Acts 11:19-24a. Why was Barnabas sent to Antioch (v22)? HOW is he a great model for giving criticism (vv23-24)? Review the three important points from the sermon notes on giving criticism. Which one(s) strengths? Growth areas? Next steps?

5) Read Acts 11:24b-30. What are the benefits? John1:14 Jesus came full of Grace & truth. TRUTH: I was SO sinful He had to die. HOW Does that remove pride/harshness from my words? GRACE: I was SO loved He wanted to die. HOW Does that remove fear/deceit from my words? Pray PB full of love/truth.