

Title: "Critically Crucial"

Text: 1 Kings 19:1-19

Target: The only way in your life that you will never face criticism according to the parody of Aristotle is to: *To do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.* This is not an option considering you were called unto a life of purpose. **So, how do we deal with the criticism in our head without having catastrophe in our heart?**

I. BROOM TREE BLUES: (Vs. 1-7)

- **Deflates Courage:** *"Then he was afraid"* (vs. 3)
- **Damages Conviction:** *"ran for his life"* (vs. 3)
- **Debilitates Calling:** *"left his servant"* (vs. 3)
- **Derails Confidence:** *"it is enough"* (vs. 4)
- **Dissuades Continuation:** *"take away"* (vs. 4)

***RECEIVE ENCOURAGEMENT: (Vs. 7) "EAT" UP** God places messengers in your life to sustain you for a journey greater than you.

II. CAVE CAUTIONS: (Vs. 8-14)

- **Evaluate the Timing:** *"forty days and forty nights"* (vs. 8)
- **Escape the Temptation:** *"lodged in it"* (vs. 9)
- **Examine the Testimony:** *"I am jealous for the Lord"* (vs. 10)
- **Establish the Truth:** *"I only, am left"* (vs. 10)

***REGARD ENRICHMENT: (Vs. 11) "STAND" UP** God whispers to call you close in order to silence the shouts.

III. ROAD RULES: (Vs.15-19)

- **Retrace your Steps:** *"Go, return on your way"* (vs. 15)
- **Return to your Service:** *anoint Hazael, Jehu, Elisha* (vs. 15-16)
- **Rely on His Strength:** *"put to death"* (vs. 17)
- **Rest in the Struggle:** *"seven thousand in Israel"* (vs. 18)

***REMEMBER EMPOWERMENT: (Vs. 15) "GO" UP** God goes before you to build in you a belief bigger than your burden.

Take Away: "Accept both compliments and criticism graciously, knowing that it takes both the sun and rain for a flower to grow" - Anonymous