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 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