

# The Critics

CHARACTERS: 4

COSTUMES: street clothes

PROPS: none specified

SETTING: none specified

RUN TIME:

*At rise: A and B are stage right while C and D are stage left. These can be done all in a row or interspersed with other activities, songs, etc*

## Part 1

A: I've been checking out the gifts of the Spirit.

B: That's a good thing to do. God gives us all gifts to use for his glory.

A: I think I know what mine is!

B: What's that?

A: (*proudly*) I believe I have the gift of criticism.

B: I'm not sure that is a gift of the Spirit. Criticism can be very damaging if it isn't done with kindness.

A: I'm sure that's what my gift is.

B: Would you like my advice on how to use it?

A: Sure.

B: Do you remember the parable of the talents?

A: (*She nods eagerly*) Sure I do. The master gave one servant 5 talents, another 2 talents and the last one 1 talent.

B: Remember what the one talent guy did with his talent?

A: Yes. He never used it. He just buried it in the ground.

B: Then go and do likewise! (*A's mouth drops open*)

## Part 2

C: (*Sincerely*) Isn't constructive criticism sometimes necessary?

D: (*Weighing carefully what will be said*) Yes

C: How do I know when to criticize and when not to?

D: If it gives you pain - then do it. If it gives you pleasure - keep your mouth shut.

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### Part 3

C: (*Complaining*) You know what's wrong with (*you can fill in any subgroup as desired*) people today? Everything. They're too loud, too spoiled, too lazy, too self centered and too disrespectful! Don't you agree? (*D shakes head 'no'*) (*Surprised*) Well then, what do you think is the matter with them?

B: I think they have too many critics and not enough examples.

### Part 4

D: (*Can't wait to gossip*) Let me tell you about (*Fill in a name or "preacher", etc.*) She/he has so many faults. I could criticize them all day and all night and still not have my list completely done with.

C: Wait. Let me get my criticism book (*Pull out a notebook and pen and hands them to A*) Just write your criticism in there and sign it. The next time I see him/her I'll take it up with them

D: I don't want them to know I'm saying this...

C: Then let's just not say it.

### Part 5.

B: Ever wonder why it seems that the person with the most faults does the most criticizing of others?

A: Maybe he's just trying to divert the attention to someone else.