

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



338 Don't Lose Track of Your Big Things

My trip to Saipan reminded me of something my mother used to tell me, and it was a valuable lesson learned again. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, we focus on the things that really matter, not the ones that take our attention away. That's coming next, on The Extra Point.

Yesterday's Extra Point detailed my two-day trip to Saipan to deliver training and coaching, and how certain events threatened that plan as well as my overall enjoyment. The plane was delayed, baggage came out last, a car rental delay, then a video connection issue. So many things went wrong and we started two hours late, yet it ended up being a great session. The main reason I came was a success, so the little issues didn't matter.

The directions to the hotel weren't accurate and it has no sign, nobody I asked had ever heard of the place, so it was 45 minutes of driving up and back to find it. Once in, there were issues with the lights, toilet, Internet, and phone. Yet, I was okay, sort of amused at how things were going. Honestly, I was laughing to myself and saying, "What's next?"

Then, the troubles came to a delightful and screeching halt. The Internet got straightened out, I discovered the hotel had a terrific little bakery, then took the longest and best shower of my life with their rainfall shower head and hot water. A solid hour in there. Fabulous. Then, into their comfortable bed.

Could things have been better? Yes, but all the small stuff sort of faded away in the reality of the things I really care about in a hotel room — a great shower, great bed, good Internet, and the bakery was a bonus. I slept soundly, got up and day two went exactly as planned.

Here's where what my mom had told me comes in. She'd hammer home the point that before I slap a label on something, whether as a success or a failure, a problem or a challenge, whether

good, bad, or otherwise, to make sure I'm clear on what the final outcome was.

I once had a manager who spent half his life in the air and he'd say, "You may have a lousy flight but any landing you can walk away from is a good one." Pretty hard to argue with that, right?

You may not have the car you want and maybe you're spending on repairs, but it gets you back and forth until you can afford something better. What does that mean? It means it's a great car because it's helping you solve a problem.

Your boss is on your case to improve your skills. You might not like it now but what if you get a promotion? Should you focus on the pressure from the boss, or the potential benefits?

If your kid drives you crazy during the teen years you might think that every bead of sweat, every moment of anguish, every tear has been in vain. Then they make something of their life and become the kind of parent you are totally proud of. You realize that you ended up with exactly the outcome you were chasing, even though there were a ton of stumbles along the way.

I forget about the larger picture sometimes, and maybe you forget, too. It's easy to get caught up in the moment and magnify mistakes and stuff that doesn't work. Details do matter, but I always want to keep my eye on the things that really count, to stay focused on the outcome, which will help me to touch all the bases in pursuit of it. Mom was right.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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