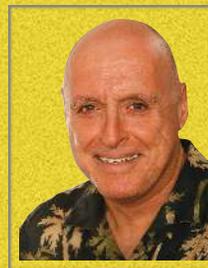


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 531 Take Care of Today and Point to the Future

It's been an eventful 24 hours since our first confirmed cases of COVID-19. I heard and read a number of people use the phrase, "One day at a time." I'm Jerry Roberts and today, let's look at that statement from a couple of different angles. That's next on The Extra Point.

I went to fill up water bottles after yesterday's Extra Point. One guy said to another, "So, how are you doing?" He responded with that line, "One day at a time." I caught the same line a couple more times during the day, and used it once myself. It makes sense, sounds positive.

In a situation like the entire world is in right now, you certainly need to stay focused and take care of today. We need to focus on the little things that must be repeated each day in order to give ourselves the best chance to avoid infection, or if we are infected, to have the virus run its course with minimal symptoms and we get past it.

Those things are the social distancing that has been discussed, excellent hygiene, as well as maintaining the strongest possible immune system. With no medicine to help us at this point, those are the three factors that will make the difference for us now.

Last night I began thinking about how the one day at a time statement fits with the workplace. Should that be the sole strategy?

I've worked for managers who believed that if the news wasn't good, the key thing was to keep everybody busy so they didn't have time to think about their problems. Of course that wasn't true because workers worried anyway, but it sounded good when they said it.

However, they were right in one respect. While people did worry while working, they were so busy they didn't have time to stop and get involved in conversations with other workers, both losing productive time.

Okay, there is some validity to the "one day at a time" idea in a crisis. Now, how about adding some attention to tomorrow? How would that change the conversations managers have with workers? Let's look at it.

Tomorrow, in the middle of the COVID-19 problem, my manager talks to me about adding a certain skill or training." What did the manager just change? My vision. We're talking about future plans, not just about getting through the here and now.

It might be about pushing the planning of a new project. Whatever it is, it's about the future. This is a leader doing the normal thing, projecting ahead and preparing the team to be ready for growth.

My point is, help your workers handle the day by day issues, and check in with them to see how they're getting by. Then, if you can, go the extra step, talking about them being a part of your post-virus activities and plans.

No one knows how long this situation will last. I suggest that taking care of today while pointing to the future is a good strategy for every organization.

Doing this can be bonus motivation for your workers, at a time when they really need it.

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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