

SESSION TITLE: Rolling with the Punches

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What does it mean to "roll with the punches"? What does it

mean to "have a glass jaw"?

Why is flexibility important?

1. Life happens

Mathew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

2. Punches are the price of progress

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

2 Dangerous Extremes:

Ownership (the glass jaw)

- Consciously or subconsciously I believe that I am building my own Kingdom (or ministry)
- I believe that the work I do, the possessions I own or the position I hold is what validates me or gives me worth.

This attitude will cause one to shatter when the inevitable punches occur.

Apathy (the wet noodle)

- Defined as a lack of interest or concern: indifference.
- Often this attitude is adopted to avoid the pain taking a punch.

This attitude will hinder one from having faith and investing in the work. If the

extremes are ownership and apathy where is the balance?

Understanding the Lordship of Christ

Mathew 6:9-13

6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the **kingdom**, and the **power**, and the **glory**, for ever. Amen.



We pray and work to see His kingdom and will accomplished but at the end of the day we recognize that this is His kingdom, accomplished by His power, and all is done for His Glory.

Biblical example of this balance: Joseph A life filled

with highs and lows:

- The **Promise:** God would use His life.
- The **Pit:** Where the jealous brothers threw "the dreamer."
- The house of **Potiphar:** A place where Joseph rose in power.
- The **Prison:** He was thrown there by the false accusations of another.
- The **Palace:** The place where the promise was fulfilled.

If Joseph had a problem with ownership (glass jaw) he would have called God a liar for not fulfilling the promise of greatness.

If Joseph had a problem with apathy he would have never attempted to be anything more than a slave or a prisoner.

Joseph knew how to roll with the punches. This is revealed by the very powerful statement he made to his jealous brothers on the other side of all of his setbacks.

Genesis 50:19-21 NLT

19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

21 No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

This sounds a lot like another promise found in the New Testament.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

If we are going to see the great promises of God fulfilled in our generation it will take people who know how to roll with the punches. All things are not good but all things work together for the good.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

"Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the face" ~ Mike Tyson