



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 11

Scrappy Churches Have An Attitude Change:

- "I could not figure out where my attitude stunk the most." Ben confessed. We were interviewing the pastor to learn as much as we could about his turnaround church. He continued "Some days, I would have the attitude of the victim. My church members don't support me. I can't compete with bigger churches. Our church doesn't have enough resources. I have to say, I had mastered the victim mentality." (Pg. 30)
- Ben continued with helpful transparency: "On other days, I was mad. And I made a rear of myself at times. I would express my anger on Facebook. I wasted an incredible amount of time ranting on social media. There were days my wife told me I embarrassed her. Then I would get mad at her, and we would get in an argument. I was a miserable pastor and a miserable leader." (Pg. 30)
- There is something that is a kick in the stomach for us all, that when we have a bad attitude the Lord can't use us. It can start from the Pastor, it can start with us all, that when doing ministry there can be times that discouragement and frustration does have a strong grip when there are times that problems can hurt us.
- Every leader goes through seasons of frustration, no matter how much a leader trusts in the Lord it doesn't mean that a leader doesn't get frustrated and doesn't question themselves. Leaders can get frustrated

when it seems like it isn't moving fast enough, when it seems like other Churches are doing gigantic things and it is a struggle just to get people to serve, and then even a leader deals with their own personal demons and even doubts of whether or not they feel like they are a good leader.

- There are things that leaders go through that can be hard, that can be emotional, that can be tough, and that can be dark. Leaders think about things that other people don't think about, leaders want the best for people even if they don't want it for themselves, leaders want the best for the Church even when the Church can be resistant and combative the love that a leader has for the Church still wants them to be at their best.
- A real leader that is used by the Lord doesn't desire to be lackluster but wants to be excellent in everything, and wants the Church to be excellent as well. The Church should always want to be excellent as well, and the Church should want to follow the leaders vision, follow the leaders heart, take care of the leader, speak the leaders language, support the leader, encourage the leader, and pray for the leader.
- The leader needs to feel the love from the people, because there are times that a leader can look okay physically but be dry, down, and shattered on the inside! There are scars that you will never see from a leader, but they are there and leaders never want to see things fail and they don't want to fail.
- Leaders have that feeling and leaders do have those worries, because leaders have a lot on their plate and they do want the Lord to bless them and the ministry! The Lord will bless the ministry and the Church, the Lord has His hand on the Church, and the Church will never lose power when we allow the Lord to change our attitude. Our attitudes should be positive, our attitudes should be humble, and our attitudes should be full of faith in order for us to be a stronger Church!
- The Church can be very influential if it chooses to be, and we have to also be careful with our influences though because don't bring negative influences into a positive environment. We bring influences with us that

are not always just from the Church, sometimes we bring influences from somebody that doesn't go to the Church you go to, that isn't your Pastor, and that isn't good for you, we have to be careful of the things and people that we allow to influence us.

- When we follow the Lord, when we serve the Lord, and when we let the Lord use us the best influence is the Lord. The power of the Church is influence, and the power of the Lord is the best influence that we can have that influence will grow us, that influence will make us more loving, and that influence will make us want more of the Lord, and because of that influence we know that the Lord is the leader.
- We need the Lord, because when we are serving in ministry and when anybody serves in ministry and even when we look at life we need the Lord because there are days that we are tired, there are days we are frustrated, and there are days that we do have to deal with the pressures and stresses of life. We all deal with these problems, and we all deal with these situations because as we follow the Lord we do have our ups and downs but the influence of God is a reminder that we are not alone but the Lord is on our side.
- The Lord is always on our side, the Lord is always with us, and the Lord is always going to bless us but we also understand that there are times and periods that we face our seasons of despair, seasons of worry, seasons of pain, seasons of distress, and even seasons of fear but that is when we have to make sure that we follow the Lord.
- The Lord is the one that will pick us up, the Lord is the one that will allow us to stand strong, the Lord is the one that will allow us to stand firm, the Lord is the one that will allow us to have hope. The Church must understand that hope isn't eliminated, hope isn't vanished, hope isn't impossible, and hope doesn't go away because as we follow the Lord and as we trust in the Lord we know that hope is real.
- That is the key of life, that is the reality of life, and that is the power of our influence and following the Lord. We have to follow the Lord, but we also have to make sure that we don't allow anger or even bad influences to cause us to forget who we are. **The Church is always under**

attack, and the Church always has to deal with some form of fire, but what can and will hurt the Church is when the attack and fire comes from the inside.

- Sometimes that is what hurts the Church, and sometimes the Church suffers because the fire comes from the inside. It is one thing to have a Holy Ghost fire, but it is another thing to have a fire that is purposely set to cause the Church to decay, to cause the Lord to lose power, and to cause the Church pain.
- No matter what season the Church hits, the Church can survive any hit because when we speak with positivity, when we speak with love, when we speak with authority, and when we follow the Lord and do what the Lord says we know that the Lord will keep us. The Lord will always be with us, the Lord will always take care of us, and we need to understand and see that as we follow the Lord we have to believe in what we say.
- We say that we believe in the Lord then we need to practice it, we say we believe in the Lord than we need to live it, we say that we believe in the Lord than we need to make sure that we are following the Lord knowing that no matter what season and moment it is the Lord will allow us to stand firm. You have to believe in the power of the Lord, you have to believe in the grace of the Lord, and you have to believe that the Lord will always work it out because the Lord knows that we all can fall but the Lord will give us the strength to make it.
- Make sure as well that you pray for your leader, pray for your leaders mind, pray for your leaders spirit, pray for your leaders heart, pray for your leaders preaching, pray for your leaders teaching, pray for your leaders health, pray for your leaders finances, and pray that the Lord will always use the leader.
- Too many times people want the leader to pour out for the people, but do the people pour back into the leader. If the leader pours encouragement into you than pour encouragement into your leader, if the leader pours prayer into you pour prayer back into the leader, if the leader pours love into you pour love into the leader, if the leaders pours

the word into you pour the word into the leader, and if the leader pours kindness into you than pour that kindness back into the leader.

- It goes both ways just like you want the leader to give you max effort, then give max effort and commitment to the Lord and give your best commitment to the leader. It is important to understand that as the leader leads the people, that it is important that the leader helps the people but also that the leader and the people are on the same team. That is the key that the leader and the people are on the same team, and because of that and how the Lord works we should always be on the same goal of reaching the lost for Christ.
- It is important to lift up Jesus, it is important to follow the Lord, and it is important to make sure that when we are lifting up Jesus that we realize and understand how important it is to lift up the name of Jesus we know that the Lord is present, we know that the Lord is powerful, and we know that the Lord is always going to make sure that we can overcome any funk that we are dealing with.
- As we are servants of the Lord, we all can hit a wall no matter how much we follow and love the Lord that doesn't mean that we won't hit a wall. We can hit a wall of discouragement, we can hit a wall of being tired, we can hit a wall of being sad, we can hit a wall of being depressed, we can hit a wall of being upset, and we can just hit a wall of struggling with our faith in the Lord.
- We all can hit some walls at times as we follow the Lord, but even though we hit some walls in our walks with the Lord we are still able to be encouraged because of the word. The word of the Lord still works, the word of the Lord will encourage us when life can be dark, when our faith gets fractured, when days can be long, when times are difficult, and when times are dreary it is good to know that the word of the Lord still works and the word of the Lord will keep us from breaking down.
- The word of the Lord will keep us, because we need the word of the Lord in our lives. The word of the Lord will restore our broken spirits, the word of the Lord will remind us that we are not alone, the word of the Lord will uphold us, the word of the Lord will grant us victory, the

word of the Lord will remind us that the Lord is our rock, the Lord is present with us, the Lord is always alive, and the Lord will never abandon us but the Lord will always uplift us. No matter the burden God will be there, no matter the struggle God will give you strength, no matter the anger God will calm your storms, no matter the letdowns God will pick us up, and no matter what we are dealing with it doesn't matter what it is nothing will stop the Lord from taking care of us!

- "Scrappy Churches Pray For The Pastor": Nehemiah 6:3-9 ESV - And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" [4] And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. [5] In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. [6] In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. [7] And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." [8] Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." [9] For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.
- "Scrappy Churches Encourage The Pastor": 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13 ESV - Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. [12] We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, [13] and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.
- "Scrappy Churches Believe In God": Job 23:10-17 ESV - But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold. [11] My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have

not turned aside. [12] I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food. [13] But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does. [14] For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind. [15] Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him. [16] God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; [17] yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

- "Scrappy Churches Lie Off Of The Word": Deuteronomy 11:9-18 ESV - and that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey. [10] For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables. [11] But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, [12] a land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. [13] "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, [14] he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. [15] And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. [16] Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; [17] then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. [18] "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

- "Scrappy Churches Have A Fearless Leader": Deuteronomy 31:5-8 ESV
- And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. [6] Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." [7] Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. [8] It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

"Scrappy Churches Don't Stop Making Adjustments"

- "I heard a missionary speak," he said. His voice was subdued now. He reflected with quiet intensity. "I heard him speak about the persecuted church. I heard the sufferings he personally experienced. I heard how he buried his own son the mission field in East Africa. And I heard how much he still loved the church, Christ's bride." (Pg. 31)
- Ben paused, still in deep reflection. "I was ashamed," he said softly. "I was ashamed of both my attitude and actions. I had wasted time in self-pity and anger. I acted like I had problems while God was giving me my mission field right in front of my face. My heart was broken." But we must be honest as we share about scrappy churches. Ben still had critics; he still does today. Ben still faced doubters; he still does today. (Pg. 31)
- But what changed is Ben's attitude and how he responds to these challenges. Ben was right. The turnaround began in his mind as he allowed the mind of Christ to guide him. You can't have a victim mentality with the mind of Christ. You can't conclude you have a shortage of resources with the mind of Christ. You can't live in anger with the mind of Christ. (Pg. 31)
- President Abraham Lincoln once said this: "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."

- Author & Leadership Guru John C. Maxwell said this: "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."
- The Late Great Coach Vince Lombardi said this: "Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal."
- The importance of leadership and Church growth is to make sure that the leader understands that God is the one that makes the Church grow, the leader's job is to do what the Lord wants. The other side of this as well is for the Church to realize, that the Lord is the guide and leader of the Church and a Church must always understand and realize that the Church can't die if the Church takes the right medicine and eats the right food.
- When a person eats unhealthy they are causing themselves to have an unhealthy body, and if a person eats too much unhealthy things that will affect their arteries, that will affect their liver, it can affect their glucose, it can affect their moods as well because when we don't eat healthy that will make us unhealthy.
- The same way it is for the Church, because in order for the leader and the Church to be healthy you have to eat the right food and the right food is the word of the Lord. You can't pick and choose what you want to eat, but you have to eat it all because we all need a well-balanced diet of the word of God, and when we have that well-balanced diet that is when we continue to grow, and that is when we will continue to be strong when we eat it all.
- We need all of the word, and when we get the word of the Lord that is when the Lord will clean us up and will clean things out of us because we need to be cleaned out. There are times people don't want to have some food because it makes them uncomfortable because of who they are, but you have to understand that for you to grow and for the Church to grow we all need the right food and we need to stay with the right cook.
- The leader and the Church can't live off of man's food, we can't live off of anything that is not anointed by the Holy Ghost, we can't live off of

anything that is not going to make us good. We need the food that the Lord provides, and we need to always stick close to the Lord, and when we stick close to the Lord we understand that not only do we need the Lord, and not only do we need the presence of the Lord, but we need the Lord to feed us what we need.

- Don't get mad at the Lord, because the Lord won't let you get away with being unrighteous and wrong-spirited! The Lord won't allow us to get away with that, the Lord won't allow us to just do anything and be any kind of way because the Lord watches that, the Lord observes that, and the Lord looks at that and we have to understand that the Lord will always make sure that we are not living incorrectly but that we are living correctly but we have to live with the word.
- We have to live with the word, we have to be crafted by the word, we have to be changed by the word, we have to want the word, and we need to be built by the word. We need the word of the Lord, and when we have the word of the Lord we realize and we understand that there's no need of being mean and sour, because we see and realize that God knows how to bless, God knows how to change, and God knows how to craft us.
- God knows how to do it, and God knows how to make a person continue to stand firm in the midst of other things and in the midst of things that people can try to be cold and people can try to be difficult but God knows how to take care of that. The Lord knows how to correct us all, and don't fight correction because it is going to happen whether or not you want it but you have to accept and take it because the Lord is the one that is making us stronger, wiser, and more Godly!
- The question that one has to ask themselves is.... **"Do I Want To Be More Godly?"** Do I desire to be more Godly, and do I have enough spiritual maturity to want to be more Godly. There does come a time in our walk with the Lord that we do need to be more mature, and there is something that a follower of the Lord has to make sure that they want to be changed, that they want to be fulfilled, and that they want to be better than what they are right now.

- There's something to be said about when we follow the Lord, and as a leader and Church it is important to never forget the Lord. When we forget the Lord that is when we start to run into mischief, that is when we start to let other things influence us, and that is when we start to allow things that don't mean us any good to get in our hearts and in our spirits.
- Something happens when we follow the Lord, we can be calm and we can firm in our belief when we follow the Lord. Even when we have our days of toughness, even when we have our days of feeling low, even when we have our days of feeling down or even feeling inadequate there's still hope for you, and there's still hope for me that God can turn us around!
- Before we ask the Lord to turn things around, we need to ask the Lord to turn us around. We need to ask the Lord to turn around our behaviors, Lord turn around my attitude, Lord turn around my mouth, Lord turn around my spirit, and Lord turn around anything that is not pleasing in your sight. We have to please the Lord, we have to serve the Lord, and we have to make sure that we are always following the Lord and have the Lord turn things around for us.
- The Lord will turn things around even for the leader, because any leader can feel like they are not being effective or feel as though they have nothing to look up to but the Lord is the one that will give us a better look. We will all be better when we look up to the Lord, and we will all be better when we really trust the Lord, and follow the Lord and when we follow the Lord we stop allowing ourselves to be controlled by false narratives.
- There are narratives that we do allow to control us sometimes, and if we are not careful those narratives can define us and define our ministries. However.... We have to allow the Lord to be the creator and foundation not anything else, but when the Lord is the one that is the painter of our lives, painter of our Churches, and painter of our ministries we need to always make sure that the Lord will always have us have the right picture.

- We can never have a great picture if we use the wrong paint! The Lord is the one that will make the right picture for us all, and as we follow the Lord we will improve, we will not quit, and we will not walk away from what the Lord has done for us and what He is doing for us. The Lord will do so much for us, and the Lord will give us that hope that we can't quit because we know who we follow, and we know who we trust in because we know that the Lord will always take care of us!
- "Scrappy Churches Will Survive:" Ezekiel 37:1-10 ESV - The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. [2] And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. [3] And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." [4] Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. [5] Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. [6] And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." [7] So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. [8] And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. [9] Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." [10] So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- "Scrappy Churches Follow The Lord": 2 Corinthians 13:5-10 ESV - Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus

Christ is in you?-unless indeed you fail to meet the test! [6] I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. [7] But we pray to God that you may not do wrong-not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. [8] For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. [9] For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. [10] For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

- "Scrappy Churches Look Like Jesus": 1 Peter 2:13-17 ESV - Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, [14] or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. [15] For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. [16] Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. [17] Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Godly People": 1 John 1:5-10 ESV - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. [6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. [7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. [8] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
- "Scrappy Churches Grow In Character": Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 ESV - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. [10] For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

- "Scrappy Churches Are Word-Hungry": Nehemiah 8:1-3 ESV - And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. [2] So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.
- "Scrappy Churches Are God's Church": 2 John 1:4-11 ESV - I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. [5] And now I ask you, dear lady-not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning-that we love one another. [6] And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. [7] For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. [8] Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. [9] Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. [10] If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, [11] for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.