

Speaker 1: Welcome to the Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers. There are no traffic jams along the Extra Mile when you are studying for your bar exam. Now your host Jackson Mumey owner of Celebration Bar Review.

Jackson Mumey: Hey everyone welcome to episode no 28 of the Extra mile podcast. So glad that you're with us today. Hope that your day and your week are going well. This is Jackson and I'm really pleased to be able to spend a few minutes with you as we do couple of times a week on this podcast. There's a lot going on in the bar exam world right now. Today's episode is going to particularly focus on those of you who are waiting to get your bar exam results. We are right in the middle of that season right now. As we are recording, Florida results have just come out and next up probably will be Texas results among the big states, and then we will follow that somewhere shortly after I imagine with New York and New Jersey and wrap around to California and Georgia near the end of the cycle.

The uniform bar exam states are also now starting to come in and I expect most of those over the next few weeks. In any event, many of you who are listening to the podcast are probably waiting for your bar results. In this continuing part of our series that we call Bar Exam Peace, I'm going to be talking about some ways to deal with that process, some of the thoughts and the questions that you might have. I guess I'm going to say that these are not substantive in the sense of, I'm not going to tell you how to study or what to study or what you should be doing in that regard.

This is a little more philosophical. If you are anti-philosophy, if you are anti-faith you're probably not going to like this episode. I'll just tell you right now, but I do hope that you'll listen because I think there's some wisdom there. I also will be talking about a book that I really love by Philip Yancey. I've put the link to that book in our show notes for you. In any event if you are waiting for your results, I think this message can be really a helpful one to you. It is one that I share with my own students every year and it gets a lot of responses you'll hear. Now there are couple of other things I'd like to invite you to do and to join with us to find out more about the bar exam, the first obviously is we'd love to have be a regular subscriber to this podcast.

You can do that by going to iTunes and just subscribing there. I'd also love to get your honest rating and review. It is great feedback for us to know what you are interested in, what you'd like to hear more of or what you'd like to hear less of. You can also go to our website at [celebrationbarreview.com](http://celebrationbarreview.com) and click on the link at the top of the page for podcasts. You'll find all of our older episodes, every episode that we've done along with the show notes, and you can also subscribe from that page. Please check that out and join us. We do this twice a week and we are just delighted at how many of you subscribe and listen each week.

I also want to make you aware of a really special and exciting opportunity we have for teaching. That is that on Thursday at 3 pm Eastern, which will be 12 pm or 12 noon Pacific time, I'll be conducting a live free master class called "How to make the next bar exam your last bar exam?" It is the four steps that a passing bar taker must really take. It is really an action packed, that sounds kind of weird, doesn't it? It's got a lot of material in it. Let's put it that way. It has got a lot of content, a lot of material for you to take notes and put together and use right away very productively.

It is the system that we've used with our successful bar exam students now for over 20 years. The master class is totally free, but we do have limited space availability. We need you to reserve your free seat. You can do that one of two ways. You can go to our website at [celebrationbarreview.com/webinar](http://celebrationbarreview.com/webinar). That's [celebrationbarreview.com/webinar](http://celebrationbarreview.com/webinar) register for your seat in Thursday's class or you can use your text messaging and you can text the phrase 'next bar exam' to 33444. Again you can text the phrase all one word, 'next bar exam' to 33444 and we can register you from your text message. Hope you will do that. Hope you will join me. I will be on live and we will be talking about how to make that next bar exam your last exam.

Also some pretty cool special opportunities and offers that I'll be making during that master class. I hope you will join me for that. Let's get into today's message. For those of you who are waiting for your results, I do wish well on those results. I know it is a time of great anxiety and I really hope that it is a good story, a good result for you and that it brings you some peace. Lets jump into today's episode.

Hi welcome to Celebration Bar Review. This is another in our continuing series that I've titled Exam Peace. This one is a particularly appropriate message I think because as I'm recording today, we are just on the outset of bar exam results being released, a few jurisdictions already released. More coming and we are really coming into the heart of that period of time when the results come out. This message is really for those who are waiting for their results as well as those who are going to be a taking bar exam somewhere down the road and kind of trying to get a sense of that might be like waiting for results.

In large part, today's message is really a recap of an email that I send after virtually every exam to my students. It is probably the single most commented on email that I send out of the entire series. I think it seems to touch a chord in a lot of people. I apologize that I'm going to be reading it, but I want to get the wording just about right for you. It's been a few weeks since the bar exam. In a short time, results are going to start to be announced as I said in different jurisdictions. Given that timeframe, it seems like an appropriate opportunity to address a question that I'm often asked, but I rarely seem to have the right words to answer. For many of you who are waiting for your results, the great relief of simply getting the test over with is enough.

You probably won't think much more about it until the envelope or the email notice arrives with your results. I think that's a good outlook to have. If that describes you, the rest of this message maybe totally meaningless. For a number of other people, however, this time of waiting for the results is something of a struggle. It is kind of a mix of what-if's and what-about's and there's general anxiety and certainly from out of neurosis. As you wait for the results, if that's your situation, you should be comforted by this. Most of you will pass the bar. Certainly if you are in our course I can say that with a great deal of confidence.

Unfortunately if you are talking about California or New York or some of these other jurisdictions, most of you won't pass the bar and that's really troublesome. Nonetheless, whether you are going to be one of those who pass or fail, the question that I think anyone who fails is going to be asking is why did some succeed and others did not? For a few people, the easy answer to poor results will be fairly obvious. They didn't spend enough time studying or there was a crisis at home or at work that diverted their attention before the bar exam. In a few cases, undoubtedly there will be students who blame their bar review for providing inefficient course.

You can do a search and find the people that just think I'm an absolute idiot. By the way there are awful lot more people that think we are pretty strong and pretty good, but the point is that there are those who will always blame their bar review course. There will be those who blame the examiners for writing an unfair exam or blame the examiners particularly in a state like California for grading in a way that seems irrational and unfair. Truthfully, I could deal with all of those responses. I don't have an expectation that everyone will feel that the exam is fair or feel that every course is doing exactly what it should or that I've been everything that people would expect. The problem for me comes with those who do exactly what we ask of them to do certainly in our course who make the effort and still fall short.

It doesn't seem fair. It doesn't seem just. Now, a few years ago I read a wonderful book by Philip Yancey. It was called Rumors Of Another World. Yancey is a terrific writer. He has done a number of books that have a Christian based theme. They are provocative and thoughtful books, but in Rumors of Another World, Yancey seeks to explain in one part of the book some of the contradictions of why god's world is sometimes so seemingly messed up. He notes that people of faith are called to live in two very different worlds. There is the city of god he calls it, that's unseen and there is the city of this world, which is the visible worked that we know and function in.

In the city of this world, passing the bar exam, taking a new position, receiving the accolades of being a member of the bar, the proceeds that comes with that, seems nothing less than huge and certainly in this economic era it is a big deal. It is the gateway to paying your bills, to opening the doors in your career, making a difference in your life, maybe moving some place you've always

wanted to live. It matters and yet there is this other thing. The city of god which seems to call us to renounce those very same things; prestige, money, material trappings of success and therein lies a dilemma. I've had students call in every exam and ask "Why me? Why can't I pass? I tried. I studied so hard. Nothing works."

It is a gut wrenching moment for anyone in our industry. It used to be that at those moments in trying to console a student who failed, that I personally felt the most helpless, but here is where I diverge from the pity party I guess that seems natural to join in at that moment. I do not believe that god deliberately places obstacles or troubles in our paths, but I do believe that he allows them to be put there in order to grow our trust in him. If you are a regular watcher and reader and listener, I've told you the story previously about some of my students including Tina, she was a student who failed the California Bar 21 times before she finally passed.

I worked with her over the last 3 exams she took and she wore me out. There were days I was so frustrated that when I saw her phone number on caller ID, I wanted to let the call go to voicemail. I didn't but Tina persevered. She never lost her faith in god or in what we were doing to help her get through the exam. Ultimately she passed. Here is the really weird part. We put her story on our website. You could find it. It is linked as an amazing story, but not a month goes by that I don't receive a note from someone somewhere in the world who saw Tina's story on our website or communicated with her and was touched by her humility and her faith.

Based on the amount of communication that I receive, Tina's probably impacted more lives with her failure than all of my other passing students have combined. I had another student Jose who took the Florida bar 8 times and failed. He came to us and he passed, and he now spends a fair amount of his time helping those students who have given up to persevere and pass their exams as well. I had a New Jersey student who failed the test for the first time 14 years ago and then passed last year with us. His tears were really ones of joy and gratitude, not for passing so much as for thanks to god for giving him the strength to keep trying.

Each exam I hear stories like these, and I'm humbled when my students and others that have come in contact with me share those stories with me and allow me to share them with others. You see, sometimes there's a reason for a failing result that we simply cannot understand at that moment. I could go on with incredible stories from so many of our students and they are all over our website. You are welcome to look at them and I hope you do, but here is really the point of this message. If when your results arrive and they are favorable, congratulations. That's great news. It is wonderful.

Be a kind, patient, gentle member of our profession and bring honor and glory to the god of your understanding by the way you carry yourself as a lawyer, but if your results were unfavorable then you should know this. You were created

for a purpose that god prepared beforehand for you to do. For those of you that are biblical, that comes from Ephesians 2 10. That's setback may be for reasons that seem clear at the moment though rarely they do, or they may be completely hidden from you. I very much doubt that Tina could've found much good in 20 consecutive failures or Jose after 8 unsuccessful tries or my New Jersey student after 14 years of failing, but they ultimately turned out into something extraordinary in each of their lives and in those that they touch going forward.

No matter what your results are as they come out, I would encourage you to seek god first, to trust him even in the midst of the signs of disorder that might cloud your vision. In other words to be as aware of the city that's unseen as the one that's visible. The Apostle Paul for those of us who were Christian, wrote pretty ironically I think from a jail cell. He said, "We don't yet see things clearly. We are peering through a mist, and it won't be long before the weather clears and we will see it all then." That's a pretty good statement. I don't know what you'll see when the mist clears from your results. I hope it is good stuff, but if it is not I want you to know that it is not the end.

It is not the worst thing that could've happened and it can be resolved. If you are in our course, I absolutely want to talk to you. If you've not been in our course, maybe this is a time for you to reach out and contact me and see if we can be of help. The point is that the result if it is not favorable might mean something quite different than you what you exact or what you think. Rather than seeing it as an end, I hope that you'll consider it to be something like a beginning, a beginning of a new season for you. That's our message for this week. Best wishes to those who are getting the results in the next few days and weeks. I will be back again next week with another message in this series on Exam Peace. Thanks.

Well that wraps up today's episode. Thanks so much for listening. If you'd like to be part of our Extra Mile for bar exam takers private Facebook group, just check the show notes. You will find a link in which you can request an invitation and we will see you along the Extra Mile.

Speaker 1:

Thanks for listening to the Extra Mile podcast for bar exam takers at [www.celebrationbarreview.com](http://www.celebrationbarreview.com).