

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



30 “Who Do You Think You Are – Einstein?”

Today, the musings of a pretty bright guy. I’m Jerry Roberts and that’s next on The Extra Point.

I think it was the 8th grade and one day in history class I was asked a question and, since it was one of my two favorite subjects and I had just read up on the topic, I gave a pretty detailed answer — which earned some praise from the teacher.

Trust me, it didn’t happen often. But then, one of the guys behind me, said, “Aww, who do you think you are, Jerry...Einstein?”

That’s Einstein, as in Albert Einstein, as in the Theory of Relativity and one of the fathers of the atomic age.

This all came to mind a few days ago when I came across some great quotes he gave over the years; quotes that fit in perfectly with business as well as life in general.

One. “Stay away from negative people. They have a problem for every solution.”

Think about it. We all know people who go negative on everything. People, who if running a newspaper 2,000 years ago and witnessed Christ walking on water, would have printed a screaming headline, “Jesus Can’t Swim.”

You know who those people are in your life.

Two. “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Assembling the very same people to try to clean it up a mess might not be the way to go.

Here’s a thought...bring in people who may have different input to give you new ideas; people who don’t have any vested interest in the end result.

And the third quote from Einstein. It’s not one of his better known statements but I think there’s value here. “Weak people revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore.”

I’m going to bypass the revenge factor because I think it’s obvious. Revenge only leads to more of it. Now, forgiving is wonderful and we should do it, never holding a grudge or continually bringing up the past.

Are there times, however, when we can just turn away from whatever has happened? I think so. Do I need to make an issue of every mistake made by a worker, or my kid, or once in a while can I just pretend I didn’t see and let a lesson sink in on its own?

Top animal trainers will tell you they ignore poor behavior, and give the snack when the animal correctly follows instructions. In most cases the animal figures it out. “Hmmm. I only get fed if I do this. Okay, I’ll do more of that.”

So you wanna be more like Einstein? You don’t have to be a rocket scientist. A lot of things he said were totally down to Earth.

That’s The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3, I’m Jerry Roberts.

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