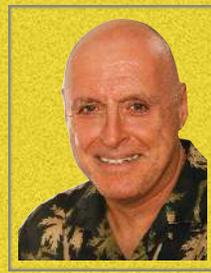


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 130 Bad Leaders Can Make Us Better Leaders

Almost everybody has had at least one bad leader in their working life. Some have had more than one. Some, if they can admit it to themselves, were a bad leader. Some knew. Some didn't. Some didn't know any better. I'm Jerry Roberts and wherever you fall in all of those descriptions, there is another question and it's actually more important. We deal with that, today, on The Extra Point.

Leaders come and go, passing through our lives and careers, some making a major impact, either positive or negative, others not so much. Each one teaches us something.

The fact is, in the most simplified way of looking at leadership, some of these people are examples of how to do it right; while others are warnings of how to do it wrong.

Here's where that "more important question comes in. What did we learn from each one, how did that change us, and did that change end up being a positive result, helping to mold us as better leaders?

And make no mistake about it, we are all leaders at one point or another. Whether or not we carry that precise responsibility at work because we have people slotted under us in the organizational chart, or we're the lead person on a project, or we help a group of kids, or any number of other scenarios — we will eventually be thrust into the role of a leader.

Great leaders have their quotations on posters, decorating the walls of businesses, bad leaders don't. Yet, we can learn as much, perhaps more, from someone who just didn't get it, than from those who did.

It's human nature for us to compare ourselves to others. Effective leaders show us traits we don't yet have or need to be strengthened,

while ineffective leaders remind us of things we don't want to do.

So, a bad leader helps us to see our own values more clearly. What is it they do that we don't want to replicate when we're in the leadership position? Where are they inconsistent? What is it about their methods of communication that fall flat with those they lead? How can and will you do better?

How does the team, myself included, react when this person treats people badly, or stumbles into yet another mistake? Likely the same way people will react to us if we follow the same path when it's our turn to lead. When you see a leader make mistakes, make notes. Ask yourself what you would have done differently. On the positive side, make notes when your leaders do things that please others or are particularly effective — and how people react to the good stuff, too. Some folks keep a leadership journal and write down these feelings, as it helps them to firm up their own leadership values.

Bad leaders aren't merely bad news and a part of life we need to endure. If we're paying attention, they show us the path forward. We get to think and dream of the kind of leader we'll be when that opportunity comes.

So don't hate on bad leaders. Learn from them and use those lessons to be the leader you want to be...and others need you to be.

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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