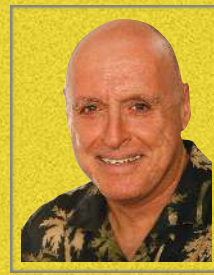


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



204 Are We Looking in the Right Places?

It's a confusing world and life throws things at us that sometimes get in our way and hold us back from the happiness and success that we deserve. And when we don't get it, well, we all know why that is. Don't we? I'm Jerry Roberts and clarity is hopefully forthcoming, today, on The Extra Point.

Let me share a story I heard a long time ago. Bob is out walking one night and comes upon George, who is on hands and knees and is obviously looking for something under a bright streetlamp. Bob asks George what he's looking for and George replies that he's trying to find his lost key. So Bob, wanting to be helpful, also gets down on his hands and knees and begins to search. After an hour with no results Bob says to George, "We've looked everywhere for it, are you sure you lost it here? George replies, "No, I lost it in the house but there's more light out here under the streetlamp."

The moral of the story...If we're looking in the wrong place for what we need, we're not going to find it. Excuses are the wrong place.

George Washington Carver once said, "99% of all failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses." We need to give up our "victim" stories — you know, all the reasons why we can't get something done, or why we haven't up until now.

We eat the wrong food, don't exercise, smoke, drink, take drugs — and then when we're in poor health society is to blame, or is it the Democrats or the Republicans?

If my kid is failing in school and I don't do anything to help, it's still the teacher's fault, or just a lousy educational system, right? I mean, I don't have any role to play here, do I? Do I?

The car makes a sputtering noise for weeks and I choose to ignore it. Then it breaks down. Well,

everybody knows that brand has always been unreliable.

We choose our friends, what kind of information and entertainment we allow into our homes, and into our minds and the minds of our kids. Do our choices help build us up and give us a better chance to make the life we say we want, or do they feed our failure and pave the way for more blaming?

Is the reason I haven't gone further in my career a long string of lousy bosses, or could I possibly have any responsibility for it?

And before you think that Jerry's on his soapbox and preaching, let me be clear. I've screwed up a lot of things in my life and most of the time it had to do with a choice I made. I've have had bad bosses and they certainly made things more difficult, and I've been hit with some things that I never saw coming, but my career always has been and always will be my responsibility. Bad things happen and we can't always avoid them. That said, we can always choose how to respond to them.

How to respond to tough challenges in a job, a business, parenting, and life in general is to be intentional. Come to grips with what it is we really want. If we're not sure then we do what we can to get sure. Pray for guidance, seek counsel from people we trust...and overall, just be straight with ourselves. No more blaming. Stand up, be accountable, then go after it. There's a whole lot of blessings in just doing that alone. One of those blessings is teaching our kids the real way to live. Be the example.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts. ###

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