

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



376 The Pull of Mediocrity – Part 3

How can people defeat mediocrity before it becomes their ultimate destination in life? I'm Jerry Roberts and today we'll talk about a huge factor that has to change if they are ever to break free. That's next, on The Extra Point.

The majority of people in the workplace are average, or as we've been saying the past few days, mediocre. That word doesn't mean bad or poor quality. It is defined as average.

Here's a fact about that mediocre majority...it doesn't value learning like high performing workers do. Mediocre workers generally don't have a desire to learn.

I saw a quote the other day that made my jaw drop, and it's absolutely true: Here it is: "most people would choose entertainment and distraction instead of learning and growing."

Think about it. Daily television viewing used to be about seven hours a day in most homes. Not any more. TV viewing is far less today, but it's been replaced by social media. We bury our faces in our phones and it's not for the purposes of learning.

Many students graduate from high school without the basic abilities in math and many can't read very well. The ability to read opens up unlimited opportunities. The level of reading once a person leaves high school or college has declined decade after decade for years.

If you are someone who wants more out of your career and you don't know where and how to start, then here's one possible path you can follow...

1. Get off social media. The 15-20 hours each week that people devote to Facebook and Instagram — and that probably describes a light user — can be used to learn something that can boost your career.

2. If your reading skills aren't up to par, you can buy materials to help you do better, or hire a tutor. Further, if you've got kids and they're struggling with reading, get them help now. It's a great gift that will keep on giving.

3. Go to your boss and tell him/her you want to do more, be mentored, and get trained. Ask for them to push you to improve.

4. Cut out happy hour or time with the crowd and turn that time into self-education. It's not about "happy hour," it's about recapturing time by eliminating all non-essential activities and converting it into your personal development schedule. If you want more out of life the cost is dedication to self-education. That's how you pay for it. Don't wait for your employer to decide when you grow.

This is how you get ahead and leave mediocrity in the rearview mirror. You differentiate yourself from the masses who won't commit. For every day you read a book, millions of others won't. If something is hard and you want to quit, don't, because others will.

This doesn't mean you can never hang out with your friends or totally separate yourself from who and what you know. If means, if you want more and to be more, you have to give more.

Former SF 49ers coach Bill Walsh said this: "Winners act like winners before they become winners. That's how they become winners."

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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