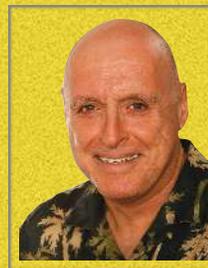


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



533 Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership

A global emergency like the Coronavirus puts leadership on display, with stakes at their highest. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, decision making with lives on the line. That's next on The Extra Point.

Everyone who has ever been in a position of leadership understands pressure. They know that a decision they make can end in smiles or frowns, praise or criticism, advancement or decline. Few ever have had to make choices that literally decided life and death for people.

If they did it was in the military with a generally known enemy, not an invisible foe that hides in, well, anybody. Any of America's 330 million citizens could have the virus, just the same as any of Guam's 165,000 residents.

We may not agree with decisions during this unfolding tragedy, but we also have not had access to the information that Donald Trump and Lou Leon Guerrero have been looking at in determining their courses of action.

Leaders in the medical community have called for the governor to effect a lockdown, which she has declined to do.

Similarly, there are many who have called for the president to order a lockdown across the U.S. He has also refused.

These aren't necessarily permanent decisions, but in a situation where the virus is rapidly spreading, time is everything. If voluntary isolation doesn't produce the desired results and the spread of the virus doesn't slow, then each leader's decision will be second-guessed forever. More than that, lives will be lost and families torn.

This incredible drama goes far beyond President Trump and Governor Leon Guerrero. There are another 50+ governors for the states and territories, as well as local leaders like mayors

in 20,000 municipal governments across the country. Now add the people in similar positions in every country around the world. All tasked with making the same kind of decisions. Each knowing that whatever they do, lives will be directly affected.

San Francisco city and county mayor London Breed opted for the lockdown through April 7 at least, in an effort to help avert an overwhelm of the Bay Area's hospitals. She said she couldn't wait any longer for federal officials to act. While praised by many for her decision, others questioned whether it came too late.

A lockdown might well be more effective in stopping the virus, but without a doubt it would serve to drive down the economy further and many companies would not survive. Business leaders have their eyes on that, as well as the health implications for their employees. And if there was a lockdown, how long should it last? A month, two, or as long as it takes?

Anybody who is a leader or may one day want to be, should be studying how this plays out. These are the toughest decisions anyone will ever have to make. If you're a person of faith, pray for the governor and for the president, for clarity, and for wisdom.

Author John Maxwell says, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." He may not have had this kind of critical moment in mind when he said it, but it's never before been as true as it is right now.

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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