

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



940 Do You Really Want Your Dream — or Are They Right?

Sometimes, the people who know you best are the first to tell you that your hopes and dreams aren't going to amount to a hill of beans. How should we feel about that? I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll get into belief in the face of other peoples' opinions, next, on The Extra Point.

It was a big day in high school, the day we would sit in front of one of the people known as guidance counselors.

It was big because these are the ones with the special training to look at your level of school performance, and factor in what you want to be, then suggest an appropriate career path.

The night before, I was on the phone with the guy who is my oldest childhood friend, and we were discussing the day ahead, He said he was going to follow in his brother's footsteps, going to school for accounting and then law, then becoming a lawyer.

My initial thought was psychologist. The workings of the mind fascinated me, but I was also interested in law. I didn't know then that there are connections between the two fields. When you think of negotiations, settlements, and working in front of a judge and jury in court, that's where psychology comes in. I didn't know.

I told my mother what I was thinking, and would tell the counselor that the next day. She then said something that would stick with me forever. She told me my choice wouldn't be good because I didn't have, "The gift of gab."

If that term is unfamiliar, it means that I wasn't good with conversation, wasn't quick in coming up with the right words to match the situation. Well, her words that day hit me like a ton of bricks. My mom didn't think I measured up.

My skills weren't good enough. She had to be right. Who knows you better than your mother?

The next day, the counselor suggested I find a trade or work my way up in a company, that I might not be happy with psychology or law. There I was. Two people I respected had rejected my career thoughts. It wasn't a good 24 hours.

Years later, after a couple of years on the radio as J.Q. Fanihi, the guy who didn't have that gift of gab, bought his mom a new car, for cash, from money I earned because of a gift of gab,

I had carried her words in my head for over 10 years, before KUAM gave me a chance to show that I could do what I'd always thought I could do. Those words drove me. First, in the area of selling, and later on the radio.

I'm not trying to glorify myself here. There's a lesson to be learned. Maybe you need to hear it, or maybe it's somebody in your family, or a friend.

There will always be people in your life who will laugh at your dreams. Whether it's to be a business owner, or CEO of a big company, a doctor, or nurse, or teacher, or whatever it is you want to be.

They'll say you can't do it. They'll remind you of all the things you started but never finished. All the things you failed at. They'll say it's not right for you. Try something less ambitious. Don't dream so big.

If these were strangers or haters, you wouldn't care. But these are parents, other relatives, your buddies, your BFFs. The people who should be encouraging you are, instead, telling you that you can't do it, you're not good enough.

Have you heard these words, like I once did? I'll bet you have. Are they right?

Like it or not, if we quit on our dream, they're right.
(Con't.)

They knew we would quit. They're not haters, and they're not trying to bring us down. They just know us very well, and we followed a pattern of behavior they've picked up on — so it was easy to predict our failure.

You begin to play mind games with yourself. Maybe the counselor was right. Maybe mom was right. Maybe it's a brother, cousin, uncle, or an ex-husband, ex-wife, ex-boyfriend, ex-girlfriend, past boss. Maybe they're all right.

Maybe you and I really don't want it so bad. Maybe you and I are mostly talk. Maybe you and I will give up and walk away from what we say we want.

Or, maybe we won't. Maybe we'll take a positive step toward that dream today. Tomorrow, we'll take another one, and we'll slowly build up momentum.

We're one decision, and more important, one action away from what we want. Action is the key. We can decide all day long, and without action, when the sun comes up we'll still be where we were yesterday.

Do we want it enough to do what we need to do to make it reality...or are they right?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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