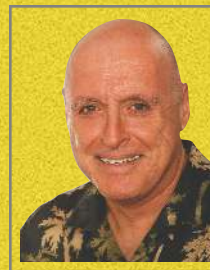


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1119 What to do When You're Losing at Life

The topic of today's Extra Point is something you've probably seen in a Facebook post, or maybe a YouTube video. That's how it came to my attention several years ago. I shared it in a heartbeat because it has a message we all need in our lives, especially at times when we can't seem to get ahead, no matter how hard we try. I came across this message in the last few weeks and scheduled it, and then Lee Webber and others also shared it. I don't think we can hear it enough. I'm Jerry Roberts, and I'll give it to you, next, on The Extra Point.

Abraham Lincoln, America's 16th President, is known for ending slavery. He's known for his magnificent Gettysburg Address. What many people don't know is that Lincoln suffered a string of professional and personal losses that are nearly unimaginable.

While you're listening, focus on what happened in his life, and put yourself in his shoes.

Lincoln was born in 1809.

In 1816, at age 7, he was forced to work to help support his family.

In 1818, he lost his mother.

In 1828, his sister passed away.

In 1831, he opened his first business and went bankrupt.

In 1832, he ran for the legislature and lost.

In 1833, he borrowed money to open another business and went bankrupt again.

In 1835, Lincoln met a wonderful woman and fell in love with her. They became engaged, but the woman died.

In 1836, he entered a dark period of his life: a deep depression. He curled up in his bed for six consecutive months, and did nothing.

Finally, he got up and decided to run for the legislature again. He lost again.

In 1840 he sought to be a presidential elector; but he lost.

In 1842, he met the woman he would be with for the rest of his life, Mary Todd. They fell in love and got married.

In 1843, he tried to be nominated by the Whig Party for a congressional seat. He failed.

In 1845, he tried again, and again did not muster enough support.

In 1850, his four-year-old son Edward died.

In 1854, he ran for the Senate and lost.

In 1856, he made a bid to be the Republican nominee for Vice-President. He received 14% of the ballots. The winner got 65%.

In 1858, he mounted another Senate campaign, and lost again.

On November 6, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States. There was talk of southern states leaving the union just four days later. On December 20, South Carolina declared its independence.

In 1861, 11 southern states quit the union and a four-year war ensued.

In 1862, Lincoln lost a second son, Willie, age 12.

On March 4 of 1865, Lincoln was sworn in for his second term as president. Forty-two days later, he died from an assassin's bullet.

Abraham Lincoln may well have had the worst record in terms of success in holding public office before winning the presidency. He lost at almost everything he ever tried.

Besides the professional failures, and besides facing challenges that no president has ever faced — before or since — the personal toll on him was staggering.

He was working at 7; lost his mother at 9; lost the love of his life at 26; he was bankrupted twice; lost two sons, and lived with a wife whose life was crippled through mental illness.

So, were you able to put yourself in Lincoln's shoes? Were you able to imagine going through the same experiences, absorbing blow after blow, some the cruelest possible?

(Con't.)

He didn't have psychoanalysts to talk with. He had no encounter group to be a part of. There was no Internet, where he could search for similar situations, trying to figure out what on Earth was wrong with his life.

Lincoln just kept on going. He lost and lost, until one day he won. Then he lost again, and still, he never gave up.

If he had lived, it's almost certain that the post-war reconstruction of the southern states would have gone differently and better for those states — and America might be better off today.

The overriding lesson for you and me is that Lincoln didn't see a setback as a reason to stop. He had one gear — forward.

By constantly moving forward and trying, even when laughed at, ridiculed, and written off as a perpetual loser, he found himself as chosen to be America's leader — at the precise moment that this country desperately needed such a person.

Make sure the kids in your family know his story.

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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