

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1281 Turn Your Experiences Into Stories Others Can Appreciate

Today, how what happened to an actor, gave me a reminder that life's ups and downs can be much more, if we choose for that to happen. I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's coming next on The Extra Point.

Actor Jason Segel, who starred in the comedy series, *How I Met Your Mother*, told a story that got me to thinking yesterday. I'd like to share that thinking with you now.

Jason was once madly in love with a woman he described as "amazing". She was returning home from a trip, Jason got excited and wanted to do something special, something different to welcome her back.

The phone rang, it was her, the plane had just touched down. "Can I come over?" she said.

Jason was in his mid-20s at the time. He assumed her question meant one thing — that she missed him badly and wanted to be intimate with him right then.

Jason, a bit of a dorky character, decided to greet her arrival by laying across his couch buck naked in a pose that some of our more senior listeners might remember Burt Reynolds once made in an issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

Jason was ready for action. When his *amazing* lady came through the door, he said: "Have I got a surprise for you!" Her response wasn't what he expected. Instead, she uttered four of the worst words any man will ever hear... "We need to talk." Jason gulped, hearing his inner voice go "Uh-oh."

And so there ... on the couch ... lying as naked as anyone could ever be ... his girlfriend proceeded to break up with him.

Did Jason go into a deep depression over this? Nope, he's an actor, and his mind kicked into a totally different gear. He said: "The whole time it was happening, I was thinking, 'This is

so funny. This is going to be amazing when I write it'." He was already mentally filing the moment away so he could use it as a story later!

What can we learn from this? I immediately flashed back to my time in California, pouring over my employment experiences once I left the radio network I worked for.

First, a CEO broke his promise to a big client, then asked me to lie about it. I refused. I also refused to accept the blame for the CEO's misdeeds. I was supposed to proclaim that the whole thing was my idea, that I wasn't aware of the promise. Nope., I wouldn't go for it. That cost me the job.

I promised myself that if I ever became a manager, I would never put an employee in a position of having to cover for something I did, even if it was a legitimate issue — not the kind of stuff this guy had done.

I once had a manager write me up for referring to the CEO by his last name. I had met the man many years before. My orientation was radio and some journalism, and it was common to use last names. "Gibson said, Leon Guerrero added, San Nicolas proclaimed," etc.

Instead of asking me to add a "mister" or "doctor" to his name, the manager didn't say a word to me. Instead, he wrote up a reprimand. He didn't even tell me about it. I found out by accident.

It was disappointing, and again I told myself that I would never do such a thing to a worker if I became a manager. I never did.

These incidents didn't scar me or in any way deter me from doing my best work. Instead, I figured there was a reason for everything.

Even if I didn't know what that reason was at the time, I knew I would eventually.

(Con't.)

For me, that “eventually” came when I started Guam Training. I’ve been on this track for going on 27 years. Many of the events of my working life have found their way into stories I could use in my courses, one-to-one coaching, and with my son.

Some came from the fun, sometimes weird, sometimes unexplainable days in radio. Some came from negative experiences, as I’ve mentioned today, and more from my work with Big Ed, my first boss, and others. Once or twice I’ve mentioned the man who taught me the publishing business, which eventually led to me launching Directions magazine.

Our lives are full of these moments, good and otherwise, funny or sad, that we can use to enrich the lives of others.

Notice your stories in the moment, wherever and whenever they are. Lock them away in your mental vault, and be ready to bring one out when it’ll teach somebody, perhaps put a smile on their face, or bring them comfort.

Life is a series of stories. Don’t be afraid to tell yours.

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.

###

For information on training and consulting services with Jerry Roberts, please click this link: guamtraining.com

