

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1539 Will You Ask for What You Want?

Have you ever wanted something, but you were afraid to ask for it? Asking is tough for many people, but it can bring rewards if we can just muster up enough courage to do it. I'm Jerry Roberts, and I've got one of the great "ask" stories of all time, next on The Extra Point.

You're good at your job, you do more than what's expected of you, and you think you're due for a raise. Will you ask for it? Will you be nervous in doing that? Is it possible that you'll pull back at the last moment and not ask?

Maybe you're a government worker and a pay raise isn't possible, but you could be considered for a higher-level job that just opened. Will you wait for your boss to offer it to you, or will you step up and ask for it?

There's a certain someone you've had your eyes on. Both of you are single and available, and you'd like to ask them out for coffee or maybe lunch. Will you? Or, will the opportunity pass you by and perhaps fall into the lap of someone who does ask?

Many people are shy or have trouble stepping forward to ask for what they want. There are several potential reasons for this, but all lead to the same place — if you don't ask, you likely don't get what you're after.

A couple of points to make, and then I'll give you that "ask" story I promised.

1. What's the worst thing that can happen if you ask? The answer could be no.
2. Maybe it's a no, or maybe it's a maybe, or maybe it's a yes, but not right now. It can be tricky.
3. Don't take the "no" personally. If someone declining to give you what you want is going to send you into a downward spiral, ending in some form of anger or depression, then you might have other things to think about besides the asking.

Okay, now the story.

August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, which has become known as the "I have a dream" speech. It is hailed as certainly one of the most important public speaking events in American history... and many would say one of the most important in human history.

A young Villanova University assistant basketball coach named George Raveling had signed on to be a part of King's security for that day. Raveling didn't know where he would work when he arrived early that morning, and was thrilled to learn that he would be stationed on the steps of the memorial, only a few feet away from where King would deliver his message.

The crowd swelled from 25,000 in the morning, to 250,000 later in the day. Raveling and other security team members were in place.

King began to speak, focused intently on the papers in front of him. He said: "Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation."

Raveling was awestruck. Dr. King was his hero, and he'd been in attendance at several of his speeches before. But it was never like this. The moment was electric. Yet, King seemed nervous and wasn't speaking with his usual power. As he once described the feeling well known to everyone who frequently speaks in public, "It's terrible to be circling around up there without a place to land." Then, he found that place.

As Raveling recalled, "He raised his eyes, opened his mouth and let God speak for him. The words came forth. "And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream...." (Con't.)

King ad-libbed for more than two minutes past the end of his prepared remarks, ending with the words many of us have long remembered: "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

The speech ended and the crowd roared. Martin Luther King Jr. picked up the papers from the podium, folded them in his hands and began to walk to his left. Then, for a brief instant, he found himself face-to-face with George Raveling.

"Dr. King," Raveling said, pointing at the papers, "can I have that?"

King handed Raveling the speech and as a crush of people descended upon the civil rights leader, Raveling folded the papers and put them in his pocket.

He went on to have a successful coaching career in college basketball, and worked for Nike as their director of international basketball. In 2021, he donated the "I have a Dream" speech" to his alma mater, Villanova.

Raveling asked, and his request was granted. So, ask for what you want. You never know what you can do until you try.

Download transcript #1539 at [guamtraining.com](http://guamtraining.com). Read it to your coworkers, and read it to your kids and grandkids. It's a gift, and it just might make a difference for them.

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

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