

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1803 Some Key Thoughts from 1800 Commentaries

This is #1803 and with respect to delivering daily commentaries on The Point, it's the last one. Today, I'm going to revisit some ideas that we've covered, hopefully giving you things to chew on. If you've been with us from the beginning, you might remember some of it. I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's next on The Extra Point.

Before I start, I want to thank Ed Untalan and our friends at First Hawaiian Bank for their great support of our program. You putting your money on the line, year after year, told us that you thought what we were creating for the community was worthwhile.

It was mid-February of 2018, and the Extra Points on consecutive days stand out in my memory.

In #9, I said that no matter where you feel your position ranks in society, to never put the word "just" in front of your job title. I'm *just* a this or that. Somebody feels that what you do is important enough to pay for. Here's what I said that day:

"It hurts every time I hear it. I'm looking into eyes that can't see what they bring to the world. And it tells me that somewhere there's a manager — or a bunch of them — who don't know how to properly relate the value of that job. Or worse, they choose not to."

It doesn't matter if it's entry-level work and the pay is low. Young people, those just getting started, have to understand their significance. Otherwise, it's just a job.

The next day, in #10, I recalled Dr. Martin Luther King's famous "street sweeper" speech that he gave to students six months before he was killed. This champion for civil and human rights also clearly understood the value of work.

Until the 1900s and the introduction of vehicles that scrubbed roadways and trash collectors, cleaning streets in cities was the dirtiest of jobs, with those doing it seen as

undesirables. King said this:

"If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper."

Dr. King said to be the best at whatever you are, and that you get to decide how to think about it.

I added that it's not about what your boss thinks of your work. Yes, that's important, but it doesn't define you. What defines you is how you see it, doing your work as well as you can because that's how you see yourself...and who you are inside.

In our time we've presented some 2,000 of the most insightful quotations. Things like:

"The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one."  
— *Elbert Hubbard, author/philosopher*

On intentionality...

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."  
— *Arthur Ashe, tennis champion and activist*

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." (Be careful of your biases)  
— *Anais Nin, novelist*

*First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt...*

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Managers, listen well...

"Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is. Treat a man as he can and should be and he will become as he can and should be." (You want people to step up? Deal with them as if they already have.)

— *Leadership expert, Stephen Covey (Con't.)*

“Talent is God-given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.”

— *John Wooden, legendary UCLA basketball coach*

I don't know who said it, but don't ever forget it...

“Opportunity dances with those on the dance floor.”

Richard Branson, adventurer and chairman of the global conglomerate, The Virgin Group...

“Train people well enough so they can leave, then treat them well enough so they don't want to.”

Along the same lines, this from human behavioral expert Alfie Cohn...

“Pay people well and fairly, then do everything you can to make them forget about the money.”

If you're a parent...

“Children are more influenced by sermons you act than by sermons you preach.”

— *David McKay, author*

and finally, from songwriter and poet Shel Silverstein...

“Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles, the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen close to me ... Anything can happen, child. Anything can be.”

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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