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Unscripted Book Review

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Unscripted Book Review

Unscripted is an amazing book that examines the importance of dealing with life from the aspect of life, life in the sports world, and life in your faith. This life changing novel was written by Ernie Johnson who is an American sportscaster for Turner Sports. Most people would know him from his show called “Inside the NBA” that he hosts on TNT with retired NBA stars Shaquille O’Neal, Kenny Smith, and Charles Barkley. Ernie describes to us the importance of viewing life in a larger way, to not follow the script that is set for this world but to look at the “Blackberries” that God gives us.

The topics that are talked about in the book reach a large variety. Johnson touched on his father and what it looks like to be a model for others. He tells us that in this world, in the sports world, we need to be the example that God calls us to be. There are seven lessons Johnson gives us in attempts to help achieve this. “Be yourself.”, “Don’t think you’re special because of the job you have.”, “Never think you’re bigger than the game.”, “Treat everyone with respect.”, “Be loyal.”, “Once you’ve done your best, to heck with it.”, “Take the high road.” (Johnson, 26) Another topic that Johnson preached on was about finding those people who better you. He talked about his father, his wife, his disabled son, and his sons coach as examples of these. His father set the example for him without meaning to teach him. His wife encouraged him by telling him that he was “a good dad” (Johnson, 99) for skipping a possible game seven of the conference

finals to see his son's graduation. Johnson has a recurring theme of being a good person that continually comes up throughout the book.

Johnson continues talking about life can be filled with highs and lows in one's careers. Some people can have things set up for them and some must work their butts off to earn. He talks about the how dealing with the unscripted moments is how you will end up in your career. That if "there's one thing life has taught me, it's not to fear the unscripted but to embrace it."

(Johnson, 19) An example Johnson gave for this was on his show for TNT "Inside the NBA" him and his co-hosts do the whole thing unscripted. With the trust of his producer and the trust in his crew many of the things they do outside of talking about the game going on or pressing NBA related topics they improvise by playing jokes on each other. This has resulted in their show becoming one of the more popular shows for basketball due to the willingness of dealing with unscripted messages. These of course were the good versions of unscripted messages. Johnson then shifted that focus the negatives when he spoke on the cancer that he was diagnosed with. In 2003 he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. The focus of this section was to express the setback and to look at how these unscripted setbacks can be used as positives in one's life. He shares four things with us on the topic when it came to his family. His family was his group, his people who he felt more for them when he was diagnosed than he did for himself.

1. This wasn't about him; it was about his family.
2. It's about all of them pulling together to get through it
3. If there was worry from the kids, they needed to talk to him, not hearing horror stories from friends
4. He knew no matter what, they would get through it. Thoughts like this kept him going and motivated to get through the unscripted negatives.

The faith portion of the book to help a sport management student in their field of work was a very encouraging section. Johnson continually brings up the words "unscripted

blackberry's" (Johnson, 19) which he tells us that "God has placed blackberry brambles along the paths we walk every day. We just need the eyes to see them, the ears to hear them, and the hearts to detect them." (Johnson, 19) These blackberries are described as 1. It's about all of them pulling together to get through it 3. If there was worry from the kids, they needed to talk to him, not hearing horror stories from friends 4. He knew no matter what, they would get through it. These little moments in our lives are opportunities to grow in our faith and expand our knowledge and skills in our fields. How we view life and go about it is the question.

I think that this book was very good as a sport management student to see how we can view these unpredictable situations we will find ourselves in in the future. The ability to assess the situations we are in and then choose to take the high road if it's a conflict, or to view a tough situation as an opportunity or a "blackberry" can change our outcomes as employers. When thinking about the person that I want to become and the kind of co-worker, boss, and employee I wish to be the kind, generous, outgoing, and thoughtful person. By following those seven lessons that Johnson gives to us as it can help me to become this. Overall, this book was an inspiration to the way I can view things and helped me see different paths that can end to an amazing outcome. Trusting in God and allowing him to work through me, seeing the small things and being grateful for those as well as turning bad situations into opportunities to better myself and the kingdom of God will help me achieve these.

Some of the critical thinking skills that I had to use while doing this book report were as follows. Analysis- I used analysis to help my ability to take in all the information from the book and it allowed me to then process it and apply it to the other skills. Open Mindedness- Throughout the book it had many ways of thinking about certain situations. I have normally been a stubborn person, and this has led me to be closed minded when it comes to other people's

views. This book has tested that for me as it has challenged me to look at things from a different perspective and view good and bad situations as opportunities. Problem Solving- This was also something that came throughout the book as it taught me that problems will occur and it's how you deal with those problems and that will determine the person that you are. I feel that in a way this book gave me the ability to apply many of the critical thinking processes to myself and how I decoded the book as a reader.

Works Cited

JOHNSON, ERNIE JR. *Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments That Make Life Extraordinary*.
BAKER Book House, 2018.