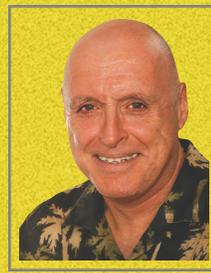


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1215 When Losing Makes Us a Winner

Sometimes, the difference between victory and defeat is by the narrowest of margins. How narrow? By an ego so thin it was not at all visible...and by integrity so thick it was all you could see. I'm Jerry Roberts, and the details are next, on The Extra Point.

When does losing make you a huge winner?

That question was answered December 2, 2012, at a cross-country race in a small town in Spain.

Abel Mutai, a Kenyan runner who had won a bronze medal earlier that year in the London Olympics, was comfortably ahead in the race, followed by Spaniard Ivan Fernández Anaya.

Mutai was about to win and thought the end of the race came about 10 meters sooner than it actually did, and he stopped running. People were shouting at him to keep going, but it was in Spanish, and Mutai didn't understand.

Quickly, Anaya caught up, and had a clear path to the finish line and the win. However, Anaya realized that Mutai made a mistake.

Instead of continuing a few more steps to victory, Anaya guided Mutai to the finish line where he was declared the winner.

Anaya placed second, but his selfless act earned him much more than he ever would have received had he been the winner. It took him to global recognition, earned him praise, and made him more popular with fans worldwide.

Placing second to an Olympic gold medal winner is a considerable achievement, but that was mostly forgotten when the story of Anaya's kind gesture went to the world.

His Facebook and Twitter pages exploded, and his story went incredibly viral. Hundreds of millions of people read the story, and praise came from every corner of the planet.

At the conclusion of the race, one reporter asked Anaya, "Why did you do this?" Anaya replied, "My dream is that one day we can have the kind of community life that pushes ourselves and others to win as well."

The reporter wasn't satisfied and asked, "But why did you let the Kenyan win?" Anaya said. "I didn't let him win, he was going to win. It was his race."

"But you could have won!" exclaimed the reporter. Anaya looked at him, then said words that would be repeated for years to come: "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor of this medal? What would my mother think of it?"

When he helped Mutai to the victory, and when he spoke to the media. Anaya had no idea that his name and story would go around the world and he would be a hero. He was just stating his beliefs.

It's a good reminder for you and me. It's about values. It's always about values. Our values have been passed on from generation to generation, and we'll pass them forward in a similar fashion.

This is not just what we tell our kids, it's more what we show our kids. It's not what we tell our coworkers, but what we display in our daily activities.

Would we have stopped to help Mutai win, or first cross the finish line, then go back to help him? Or, instead, would our personal integrity have shown brilliantly.

Ivan Fernández Anaya taught a valuable lesson to the world on that day, and that lesson still reverberates to this day.

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Who can we help today? Who can we push into the spotlight, while stepping out of it ourselves.

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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