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Recently, the quarterback of the Buffalo Bills, Josh Allen, was awarded the prestigious honor as the NFL’s Most Valuable Player. He earned the honor for his tremendous play on the football field. If you have witnessed him play, I’d imagine at some point you thought, muttered, or shouted: “Wow!” In a game against the San Francisco 49ers, he was credited with both a touchdown pass and touchdown reception on the same play!

What really makes Josh Allen special, though, is not his football talent --it’s who he is as a person. Many people have acknowledged that he makes them feel important or special. Despite being the main superstar on the Buffalo Bills, Josh Allen doesn’t look down on any of his teammates--and his teammates speak highly about him. He always credits his teammates when the Bills win and blames himself when the Bills lose. After a 44-42 loss to the Los Angeles Rams, he actually said it was *his fault* for not making one more play (but everyone who watched the game knew the defense was to blame).

Josh Allen also takes time to get to know the people behind the scenes and treats them all with respect. During his MVP acceptance speech on national television, he credited the organization’s mail room clerk, known as “Slick Rick,” as being just as “valuable” to the organization as he was! Now we all

shake our heads at this and know better, but do we? Josh Allen taught us all an important lesson about the essence of real leadership with that statement. He emphasized how important everyone is to the organization’s success--even the guy in the mail room!

At the end of his speech he said: “Be good. Do good. God bless. Go Bills!” Let’s analyze that statement.

Be Good. Being a good person generally means to possess qualities like kindness, empathy, integrity, honesty, respect for others, and a willingness to help others, essentially acting with positive intentions and contributing to the well-being of those around them; it’s about treating people with compassion and considering their perspectives.

Being good is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others, putting yourself in their shoes. It’s helping others who are suffering. It’s adhering to strong moral principles and acting according to your values. It’s being truthful and straightforward in words and actions. It’s valuing others and their opinions, treating them with courtesy.

Do Good. Doing good things involves acting with kindness, helping others, or making a positive impact, ranging from small gestures to larger contributions, like volunteering or donating. You can offer help to someone, compliment someone, listen to someone who needs to talk, leave a kind note, call a friend you

haven’t spoken to for a while, or use the skills you have to help others. If you’re a musician, offer to play at a nursing home; if you’re a magician, perform tricks at a children’s hospital. Advocate for a cause you believe in. Do something considered to be “good.”

As a leader in your organization, are you doing good? Are you being good? If not, you probably won’t be a leader for much longer unless you lead by sole authority. And even in those instances, consequences are waiting for you sooner or later, here or there.

I’m sure Josh Allen has made some mistakes in his life, like we all have, but he certainly carries himself in a manner that any young person should emulate, that any teammate would appreciate, and that any leader should imitate.

God Bless. Why does Josh Allen say “God bless?” For the same reason anyone else says it: to wish someone well or express a hope for good things to happen to them, essentially asking God to bestow blessings upon them. Even for people who aren’t strongly religious, saying “God bless” can simply be a polite way to express well wishes or a kind gesture. And if you don’t believe in God, well, that’s for another column.

Go Bills! And lastly, when someone walking by you says “Go Bills,” your immediate and enthusiastic reply should always be “Go Bills!”

~ The End ~