

# SE7EN ||| ||| SINS ||| ||| BEATITUDES

People don't want a hero, they want to eat cheeseburgers, play the lotto and watch television. [Morgan Freeman's character, William Somerset, SE7EN]

Sins ( <a href="#">Proverbs 6:16-19</a> )	&	Beatitudes ( <a href="#">Matthew 5:3-10</a> )
#1: A proud look	June 6	The poor in spirit: #1
#2: A lying tongue	June 13	Those who mourn: #2
#3: Hands that shed innocent blood	June 20	The meek: #3
#4: A heart that devises wicked plans	June 27	The pure in heart: #6
#5: Feet that are swift in running to evil	July 4	Those who hunger and thirst: #4
#6: A false witness who speaks lies	July 11	Those who are persecuted: #8
#7: One who sows discord	July 18	The peacemakers: #7

## Introduction

### The seven sins

[Proverbs 6:16-19](#): **These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination** [\_\_\_\_\_ thing; used of unclean food, idols] **to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.**

[Proverbs 6:16-19](#) gives us a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_ life

### The Beatitudes

The beatitudes are the introductory remarks for Jesus' Sermon on the \_\_\_\_\_. [Matthew 5:3-10](#)

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

**Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**

**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Each of the beatitudes is an example of how the broken and desperate for God can be \_\_\_\_\_ with the relationship of God and His Kingdom. – Alicia Arnold's review of 'Seven'

**Blessed**

The best translation of *blessed* is \_\_\_\_\_.

This word *blessed* also shows up in: **1 Timothy 1:11**; **James 1:12**; **Revelation 22:14**; **Luke 11:28**; and **John 13:17**. Happiness is found through \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 5:3-10** gives us a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

**Week 1: A Proud Look vs The Poor in Spirit****A Proud Look (looking \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Proverbs 6:17a: A proud** [to be high, be set on high, to be raised, be uplifted, be exalted, to be lifted, rise] **look** [literally, eye]

Pride is the failure to acknowledge that we are all in the same (sinking) boat. **Adam Clarke** gets it right: “**those who will not condescend to look on the rest of mankind.**” **Psalm 73:6-8**

Pride is looking high when we should be looking low.

**The Poor in Spirit (looking \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Matthew 5:3: Blessed are the poor** [those so poor they are reduced to begging; helpless, powerless to accomplish an end; this word is used of Lazarus in **Luke 16:20**] **in spirit** [Greek = *pneuma*]; **for theirs is** [present tense—many of the other beatitudes promise things to come, but this one says that the kingdom of heaven is now for the poor in spirit] **the kingdom of heaven.**

What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

**John Wesley: Being deeply sensible of their . . . helplessness.** I am to look low to help \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalm 131:1; Job 42:6**

**Jamieson, Fausset, Brown: The poor in spirit are rich in the knowledge of their \_\_\_\_\_ case**

**Matthew Henry: To value others and \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in comparison of them . . . to be willing to . . . become all things to all men. Who are we looking over?**

**Psalm 34:18: The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.** God cares about the orphan, the widow, and the oppressed. **Do we?**

**@realrobbell: Blessed are those who don't have it all together.**

**Blessed are those who have run out of strength, ideas, will power, resolve, or energy.**

**Blessed are those who ache because of how severely out of whack the world is. . . .**

**Blessed are those who on a regular basis have a dark day in which despair seems to be a step behind them wherever they go.**

**Blessed are you, for God is with you, God is on your side, God meets you in that place.**

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William Somerset: Ernest Hemingway once wrote, “The world is a fine place and worth fighting for.” I agree with the second part. [SE7EN]

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**Matthew 5:3-10:** To start each beatitude, Jesus gives a promise—“**Blessed.**” The best translation of blessed is \_\_\_\_\_. **Matthew 5:3-10** gives us a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

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## Week 2: A Lying Tongue vs Those Who Mourn

### A Lying Tongue (\_\_\_\_\_ pain)

**Proverbs 6:17b:** A lying [deceiving, disappointing, false, fraudulent, tricking, cheating] tongue

A lying tongue uses the Christian f-word: \_\_\_\_\_.

We are called to be \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses for Jesus. **Proverbs 14:5**

What does it look like when a brother is lied about? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Jesus' opinion of lying? \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

Where do liars end up? \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### Those Who Mourn ( \_\_\_\_\_ pain)

**Matthew 5:4: Blessed are those who mourn** [present tense, implying these people are currently undergoing this; the root word means to have been afflicted, to feel, to have a sensible experience], **For they shall be** [future tense—implying that present mourning is not always met with \_\_\_\_\_ comfort] **comforted** [Greek = *parakaleo*; meaning to call to one's side for exhortation, comfort, instruction, etc.; to console, encourage and strengthen; one of the names for the Holy Spirit—The Comforter].

#### What does it mean to mourn?

This Greek word is also used in **Mark 16:9-10** (to describe the mourning that Jesus' followers experienced when they thought He was \_\_\_\_\_ forever), **1 Corinthians 5:1-2** (to describe the proper response to \_\_\_\_\_ as opposed to the pride with which the Corinthians were responding to sin), **2 Corinthians 12:21** (used by Paul to describe his reaction to unconfessed \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of believers), **James 4:7-10** (to describe a proper reaction to \_\_\_\_\_), and three times in **Revelation** to describe those that are persecuted from the horrors found there.

#### Why should we mourn?

**James Burton Coffman: The ministry of grief, mourning, and sorrow as affecting the development of Christian character is set forth in detail in the New Testament. Tribulation results in patience (Romans 5:1-5). It yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11). Godly sorrow leads to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). What a generous and merciful arrangement of Almighty God that even life's sorrows shall bless and reward his servants!**

**Fourfold Gospel: All mourning is traced directly or indirectly to \_\_\_\_\_. . . . But sorrows, even apart from a sense of sin, often prove blessings to us by drawing us near unto God.**

It is good and right to be mournful of the impact of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the world and the \_\_\_\_\_ in me.

#### 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

#### Isaiah 61:1-3

The believer's sorrow is not \_\_\_\_\_ : **John 16:20: Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.**

God is always \_\_\_\_\_. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

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*“The meek man will attain a place of soul rest. As he walks on in meekness he will be happy to let God defend him. The old struggle to defend himself is over. He has found the peace which meekness brings.” A. W. Tozer*

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### The Beatitudes

**Matthew 5:3-10**: To start each beatitude, Jesus gives a promise—“**Blessed.**” The best translation of blessed is \_\_\_\_\_. **Matthew 5:3-10** gives us a picture of a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

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## Week 3: Hands That Shed Innocent Blood vs The Meek

### Hands That Shed Innocent Blood (strength \_\_\_\_\_)

**Proverbs 6:17c**: **Hands** [a person’s deeds] **that shed innocent blood** [murder]

Are acts of war the shedding of innocent blood? \_\_\_\_ (1 Samuel 15:3; Joshua 4:13)

God made provisions for killing in the dealing of \_\_\_\_\_.

(Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:12; Romans 13:4)

First murder was when Cain killed Abel (1 John 3:12); Abel was \_\_\_\_\_

Possibly the greatest case of shedding innocent blood in our generation is \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Meek, for they shall Inherit the Earth (strength \_\_\_\_\_)

**Matthew 5:5: Blessed are the meek**, [the Greek word is *praus*, translated 'gentle' in its three other usages in the New Testament (**Matthew 11:29; 21:5; 1 Peter 3:4**) **For they shall** [future tense—implying that present meekness will produce a future result] **inherit the earth.**

Context: The beatitudes were given at the Sermon on the Mount. The prevailing thought of Jesus' Jewish audience was that the Messiah was coming with an army to conquer their oppressors (allowing the Jews to inherit lands and free them from the Romans). Christ instead informed them that the journey to inheriting the earth starts within each believer.

#### A correct view of meekness:

**Meekness is not weakness:** The Greek word *praus* does not suggest weakness; rather, it denotes strength brought under control. The ancient Greeks employed the term to describe a wild horse tamed to the bridle. In the biblical sense, therefore, it describes one who has channeled his strengths into the service of God.

**Meekness is strength controlled (focused) by the Holy Spirit:** It is good and right to be meek, it is a primary attribute of \_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrates the \_\_\_\_\_ over one's life, and a life \_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit.

#### What is so important about meekness that believers would "inherit the earth"?

We are not deprived of our abilities, strength, vision, or spirit. All of our God-given talents and energies are directed by the \_\_\_\_\_.

- The meek are those who have been tamed by God.
- They are devoted to service in the Kingdom of God, meek before the Master but bold in their proclamation of the Gospel to the world.
- We are called to be the, "meek of God," serving our Master with all our passions, energies, intelligence, and spirit all under the mastery of Jesus Christ.

Strength focused (meekness) creates \_\_\_\_\_: **Psalm 37:11: But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

We are \_\_\_\_\_ to be meek: **Ephesians 4:1-2: I [Paul], therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness [meekness], with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love**

Thought: Rome conquered the world but the Christians conquered the Roman Empire. Nero tossed and turned in his bed in the royal palace while the Christians slept peacefully in their prison cells. They found the victory in their redemption and their courage was a result of their conviction.

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Who knows? So many freaks out there doin' their little evil deeds they don't wanna do: "The voices made me do it. My dog made me do it. Jodie Foster told me to do it." [Brad Pitt's character, David Mills, SE7EN]

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## Week 4: A Heart That Devises Wicked Plans vs The Pure in Heart

Throughout this lesson, be on the lookout for which of these descriptions best fits your behavior.

### A Heart That Devises Wicked Plans (\_\_\_\_\_ heart)

**Proverbs 6:18a**: A heart [center of life] that devises [\_\_\_\_\_, prepares] wicked [the root word means to tire because of panting] plans [thoughts, intentions]

"Devises" does not imply spontaneity. This is not being presented with an evil option and seizing it. This is premeditated. This is planned. This person is the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the evil scheme.

What are you preparing for—evil or good? What fields are you preparing to harvest?

### A Pure Heart (\_\_\_\_\_ heart)

**Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure** [clean—used physically (taking a bath), ethically (doing the right thing), and Levitically (able to fulfill the Mosaic Law)] **in heart** [center of life], **For they shall see God.**

Purity is rewarded with intimacy with God (**they shall see God**). **David Guzik: Ultimately, this intimate relationship with God must become our greatest motivation for purity, greater than a fear of getting caught or a fear of consequences.**

What is pure?

**Psalm 12:6: The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.**

**Psalm 19:8: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes**

**Psalm 119:40: Your word is very pure; Therefore Your servant loves it.**

\_\_\_\_\_ is pure.

How does purity affect our lives?

**Titus 1:15: To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.** Your heart will interpret how you perceive \_\_\_\_\_. A corrupt heart sees corruption. A pure/clean heart sees purity.

**James 1:27: Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.** Purity is \_\_\_\_\_—it is not avoiding life to stay clean, it is engaging life in a clean way.

We have all encountered things that are not pure—things that are ruined when the center (heart) is not pure: a box of assorted \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus' take on the 'outside is great and the inside is not: **Matthew 23:25-28**

When we look into the perfect law of liberty (the Scriptures), we see ourselves for what we really are: either a corrupt heart or a clean heart.

So what is the fundamental thought of this lesson? **Psalm 24:4-5**

How do you get a clean heart? \_\_\_\_\_

A prayer for those who want a clean heart: **Psalm 51:10**

There is hope for us as God has done this before in **Ezekiel 36:25-27**

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*What sick ridiculous puppets we are / and what gross little stage we dance on / Not a care in the world / Not knowing that we are nothing / We are not what was intended. [Kevin Spacey's character, John Doe, SE7EN]*

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## Week 5: Feet That Are Swift in Running to Evil vs Those Who Hunger & Thirst

What are you passionate about?

### Feet That Are Swift in Running to Evil (passion for \_\_\_\_\_)

**Proverbs 6:18b**: Feet that are swift [make haste, do/prepare quickly] in running to evil [bad, evil; anything unpleasant, giving pain or misery, sad, causing injury/calamity/adversity/distress]

Do you know someone who is always quick to run to evil?

**John Gill:** Those who commit sin . . . with \_\_\_\_\_ . (sin<sup>2</sup>)

What is the result of this passion for evil? \_\_\_\_\_ (**Genesis 5:5: So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.**)

The opposite of the passion for evil, is passion for right.

**Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (passion for \_\_\_\_\_)**

**Matthew 5:6: Blessed are those who hunger** [hunger, need, \_\_\_\_\_, seek with eager desire] **and thirst** [to suffer from thirst, to painfully feel their want of something, eager longing] **for righteousness** [the condition acceptable to God—the way man is supposed to be: integrity, virtue, purity, correct thinking and acting], **For they shall be filled** [fed, filled, satisfied].

**David Guzik: We see Christians hungering for many things: power, authority, success, comfort, happiness - but how many hunger and thirst for righteousness?**

**Has anyone ever been hungry for lack of food?**

God's design is for us to experience joy and fullness: **Nehemiah 8:10c: the joy of the LORD is your strength. John 15:11: These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. John 16:24: Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. Psalm 16:11: You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Romans 15:13: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

The underlying theme throughout the beatitudes is this theme of \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. One of the jobs of the shepherd was to bring the sheep to a place of fullness—to a place where they could be filled. It was the shepherd's job \_\_\_\_\_ to bring the sheep to a place where they could have their hunger and thirst quenched.

**Matthew Henry: The quickened soul calls for constant meals of righteousness, grace to do the work of every day in its day, as duly as the living body calls for food.**

**What did Jesus say about the water that He offered?**

**John 4:14: but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. John 6:35: And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 7:37-38: On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**

What is the result of this passion for right? \_\_\_\_\_ (**Proverbs 11:19: As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.**)

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*I sympathize completely. Apathy is the solution. I mean, it's easier to lose yourself in drugs than it is to cope with life. It's easier to steal what you want than it is to earn it. It's easier to beat a child than it is to raise it. . . . love costs: it takes effort and work. [Morgan Freeman's character, William Somerset, SE7EN]*

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## Week 6: A False Witness Who Speaks Lies vs Those Who Are Persecuted

What was the last thing that you lied about?

### A False Witness Who Speaks Lies (\_\_\_\_\_ down)

**Proverbs 6:19a:** A **false** [lie, deception, disappointment, falsehood] **witness** [witness in court, testimony, evidence] **who speaks** [breathes, exhales, blows—implying this is a behavior that is constant as breathing] **lies** [untruth, falsehood, deceptive thing]

## Those Who Are Persecuted ( \_\_\_\_\_ up)

**Matthew 5:10-12: Blessed are those who are persecuted** [made to run or flee, to pursue in a hostile manner, to harass, to trouble] **for righteousness' sake** [the condition acceptable to God—the way man is supposed to be: integrity, virtue, purity, correctly thinking and correctly acting], **For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** **11 “Blessed are you when they revile** [upbraid, the root word means to shame] **and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil** [literally, speech that causes pain] **against you falsely** [lying deliberately to deceive] **for My sake** [account, cause]. **12 Rejoice** [an imperative meaning to be glad, to be happy, to thrive] **and be exceedingly glad** [leap much], **for great** [large] **is your reward** [payment] **in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

### Terry Bolden

**Merriam-Webster's dictionary definition of persecution: to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict; specifically: to cause to suffer because of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Psalm 37:4** says, **“Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”** The focus on Christ and His way comes first.

### Who suffers persecution?

**Matthew 10:22: And you will be hated by all for My name's sake**

**2 Timothy 3:10-12: But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and \_\_\_\_\_ who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ suffer persecution.**

**John 15:20-21: Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they \_\_\_\_\_ also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they \_\_\_\_\_ do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**

### Response to the trip to Israel

**Romans 12:14: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

### The letter

**Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.**

### Conclusion

An interesting point about this beatitude is that we are guaranteed joy in the midst of the persecution and after the persecution is over—future and present joy.

### 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

I wish the \_\_\_\_\_ of persecution upon all of you.

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*I just don't think I can continue to live in a place that embraces and nurtures apathy as if it was virtue. [Morgan Freeman's character, William Somerset, SE7EN]*

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#2: A lying tongue (_____ pain)	June 13	Those who mourn: #2 (_____ pain)
#3: Hands that shed innocent blood (strength _____)	June 20	The meek: #3 (strength _____)
#4: A heart that devises wicked plans (_____ heart)	June 27	The pure in heart: #6 (_____ heart)
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#6: A false witness who speaks lies (_____ down)	July 11	Those who are persecuted: #8 (_____ up)
#7: One who sows discord (making _____)	July 18	The peacemakers: #7 (making _____)

## Week 7: One Who Sows Discord Among Brethren vs The Peacemakers

When was the last time you saw a physical fight between two adults?

### One Who Sows Discord Among Brethren (making enemies)

**Proverbs 6:19b: One who sows** [sends out, casts out, lets go, shoot out—used of sowing seeds] **discord** [strife, contention, the root word means pleading your case before a judge—implying two \_\_\_\_\_ sides] **among brethren** [brothers, relatives].

This discord sower is generally the person you try to avoid at family reunions. This person is the opposite of **Hebrews 10:24: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.**

This person does not accidentally get the facts wrong. This person's \_\_\_\_\_ is contention.

### The Peacemakers (making peace)

**Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers** [people who make peace—one of the root words means to make or to do—implying intentional \_\_\_\_\_ toward a desired outcome], **For they shall be called** [called, named—the idea is branded] **the sons of God** [part of the family of God].

#### What peacemaking is not

Peacemaking is not hoping for peace. Peacemaking is not wishing for peace. Peacemaking is not praying for peace. Specifically, we are \_\_\_\_\_ called to reconcile God and man—Jesus did that (**Isaiah 9:6f** says He is the, “**Prince of Peace,**” and **Ephesians 2:14** says that Jesus, “**Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.**”).

#### What peacemaking is

Peacemaking is working for peace. Peacemaking in **Matthew 5:9** is reconciling \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 5:18: Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.** Peacemakers work to tear apart \_\_\_\_\_.

The greatest resource that we have in this ministry of reconciliation is the fact that God is a God of peace. **Romans 15:33: Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:11b: Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.**

#### What are we actively doing to make peace exist where it does not right now?

Peacemakers act. Peacemaking is caring enough about humanity to \_\_\_\_\_ sowing discord and \_\_\_\_\_ sowing peace. If a relationship has come to your mind, then go to work.

Peacemaking is very enjoyable. Peacemakers are happy people. Bringing people together that were at odds and working towards peace is invigorating and exciting.

### Conclusion

The theme of these lessons is one of active, current engagement that results in a present happiness and future hope. God wants to use us to make a difference today that will last for an eternity.