

# Along the track

## A Better World

*How beautiful would it be to leave the world a better place than the way we found it.*

Although this statement has been attributed to Pope Francis, many famous people have expressed a similar wish. Quite often, however, those reading or hearing it assume that it is a sentiment expressed about the time of death, our legacy as it were. But what if we used this wish as a morning prayer and an evening reflection? Although we might like to leave the world a better place, that doesn't happen automatically. We can - if we work at it little by little, step by step, hour by hour, day by day. And we start with ourselves.

Making things better is a call to action, rather than just accepting the status quo, not being satisfied with things as they are, not being content that at least we did not make things worse. Each of us has the power to make a difference, we have it within ourselves the gifts and talents to build bridges, to be compassionate, to be a carer of others, to be a positive influence, to be an example of what it means to be a steward of Creation. We each have within ourselves the skills to listen to others, to touch another life, to collaborate and build a sense of belonging. We have the power within ourselves to choose to be negative or positive, to choose pessimism or optimism. We have it within ourselves to sow discord and antagonism, suspicion or prejudice or we can be a healer, sowing the seeds of trust, reaching out and making peace. We each have it within ourselves the ability to recognise that we all make mistakes, that none of us is perfect so we need to begin the healing process of letting go of the hate, anger, resentment, and most of all fear that prevents us from living a full life. We each have it within ourselves to recognise that our planet is a fragile place that is in need of care and healing, that all creation is interconnected, that Creation is both a gift and a responsibility to us from its loving Creator.

So what am I called to do today – how will I keep myself open to the opportunities to build a better world that I may be faced with today? Sounds rather daunting but if we break it down into parts, anything is possible, and we come to realise that small steps count, that great things are made up of tiny parts.

How will I treat others today, especially my family, my colleagues even those I may meet only briefly. How will they feel after meeting me today – loved, affirmed, encouraged, a little happier, perhaps more at peace? Was I a listener today? Will I have shown courage in calling out racist or sexist comments or in challenging others to growth? Will I take others for granted today or will I try to see each person, each opportunity as a gift, a chance to grow?

I may also take time to ask “What might I need to repair from yesterday? Did I offend someone, did I treat someone unfairly or let my temper get the better of me? Is there someone I should apologise to, someone I should call or visit?

How will I use my time today? How will I use my money today? What will I buy? What will I invest in? What will I consume today? Will I be part of the “disposable” culture today? What will I work at, what resources will I need? Will they work to improve and restore the earth will live in?

Will I welcome opportunities to learn more today? And what information will I choose to share today? What I choose to share, ‘like’, and comment on is a decision to add something positive or negative? When I go to sleep tonight, will I leave the world with more kindness and compassion, with more honesty, more generosity?

And what of the future – what kind of a world do I want to hand over to the next generation, to my children? If I am to leave the world in a better state how can I try to make what I dream and hope for come about for them. Am I an example of how to live and love well? When my children remember me, what will they say was important to me?

*If we live the faith in our daily life, then our work too becomes a chance to spread the joy of being a Christian.* Pope Francis

Did I do that today?

Regards  
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