

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered this speech speaking to students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia on October 26, 1967. This speech is also popularly known by the title "WHAT'S YOUR LIFE'S BLUEPRINT?"

[EXCERPTS]

Principal [inaudible], Mr. Williams, Members of the faculty and members of the student body of Barratt Junior High School, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I want to ask you a question, and that is:

WHAT IS IN YOUR LIFE'S BLUEPRINT?

Number one in your life's blueprint should be: a deep belief in your own dignity, your own worth and your own **somebodiness**. ...Always feel that you count. Always feel that you have worth, and **always feel that your life has ultimate significance.**

Secondly, in your life's blueprint you must have...the **determination to achieve excellence** in your various fields of endeavor.

When you discover what you're going to be in life, set out to do it as if God Almighty called you at this particular moment in history to do it.

Set out to do a good job and do that job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn couldn't do it any better.

If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper,

- Sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures.
- Sweep streets like Beethoven composed music.
- Sweep streets like Leontyne Price sings before the Metropolitan Opera, and
- Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry.
- Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, “Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well.”

For it isn't by size that you win or you fail.

Be the best of whatever you are.

And finally, in your life's blueprint must be a commitment to the eternal principles of beauty, love, and justice.

You have a responsibility to seek to make life better for everybody. And so **you must be involved in the struggle for freedom and justice.**