

I'm a Good Person

A short comic by Devanshi Rattan

STORY IDEA

This short comic follows a person who considers themselves as a "good person" because they hold empathetic thoughts. However, when faced with a real person in need, they choose their own comfort. The story highlights the gap between internal "performative" empathy and outward apathy.

ARC

The conflict is internal vs. external. The main character struggles with the guilt of seeing suffering versus their desire to remain detached and "normal" in their busy, modern life. The main character ultimately chooses to ignore the person in need. They walk away and merge into a faceless crowd, repeating "I'm a good person" to drown out the reality of their inaction. The resolution is a "false" one. There is no growth, making the reader feel conflicted.

SCRIPT

Note: Main character is abbreviated to MC

PAGE 1

Panel 1: High angle shot of a city intersection.

Title: "I'M A GOOD PERSON."

Panel 2: MC on the street, looking at their phone.

Internal caption: "I'm a good person. I care about people."

Panel 3: MC walking past a dark alleyway. A person can be seen in the background on the floor, sitting against a wall.

Internal caption: "I wish I could do something."

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Panel 4: Flashback: young MC watching their mother help an old man.

Internal caption: "I was raised to care..."

Panel 5: Close up of a "be kind" poster in a school hallway, attached to a locker.

Internal caption: "to help when people need it."

Panel 6: Notes written on paper.

Text: "Matthew 25:37-40. "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?...The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Panel 7: Present day: A bus rushes past, MC walking by.

Internal caption: "But what can I really do?"

Panel 8: MC looks distraught, trying to put his hood up.

Internal caption: "One person can't fix everything."

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Panel 9: MC stands on a grimy corner. They see a homeless person being approached by a stranger.

Internal caption: "If I knew them better--"

Panel 10, 11, 12: Movie-reel: A generic person's face morphs into their mother.

Internal caption: "would I help if it was someone I knew?"

Panel 13: Third-person view of the homeless person in the alley. An important detail, there is a hole in the homeless person's hand, glowing.

Internal caption: "Of course I would...if only I could just do something."

Panel 14: Close up to MC's eye, he looks very shocked.

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Panel 15: MC shakes it off and looks at his watch.

Panel 16: Fast forward: MC at a store counter.

Cashier: "Your change is \$6.25."

Panel 17: Close up of cashier handing a \$5 bill and change.

Panel 18: Close up of MC putting his wallet in his pocket.

Panel 19: MC walks out of the cafe into the street.

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Panel 20: The homeless person from earlier stands right in their path. The person reaches out a hand (no hole now). No background, all the focus is in this interaction.

Homeless person: "Excuse me, do you have anything to spare?"

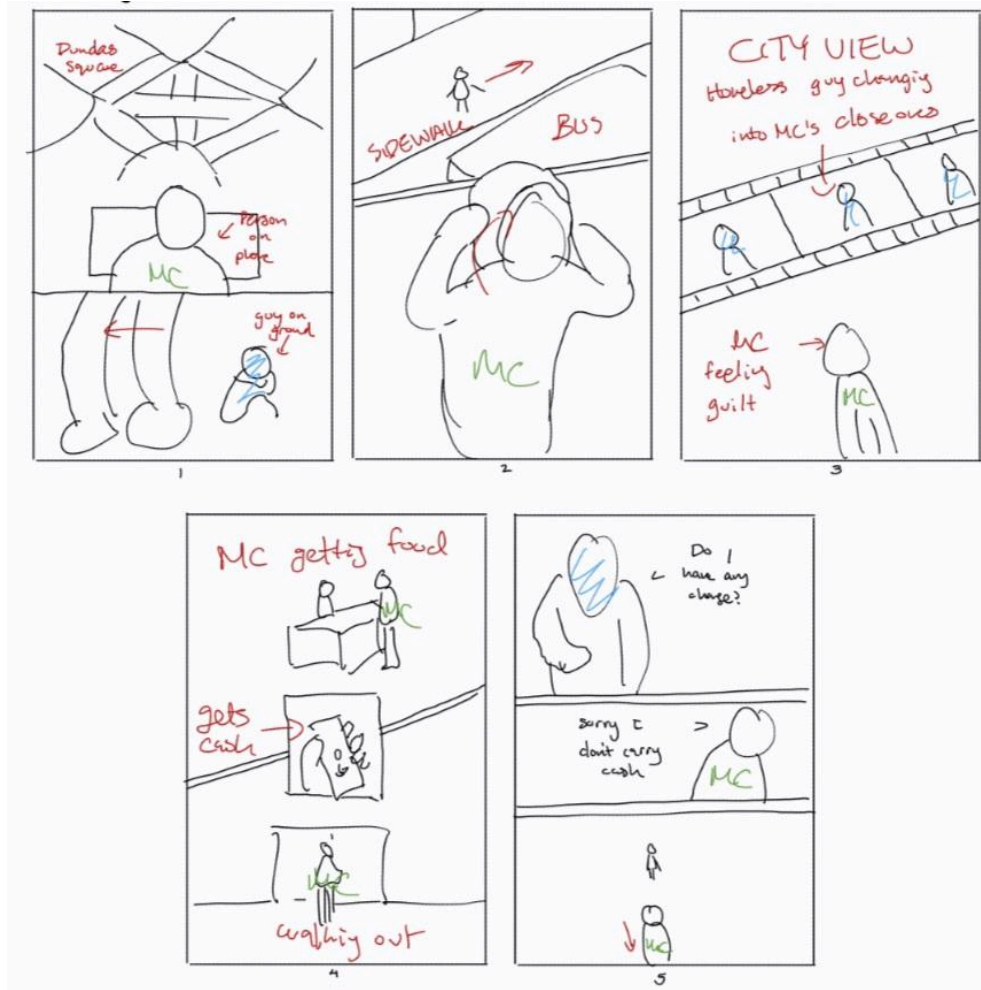
Panel 21: MC steps around the person, walking fast.

MC: "Sorry, I don't carry cash."

Panel 22: MC vanishes into a massive, silhouetted crowd. The homeless person is small behind them, his appearance has changed to Jesus.

Internal caption: "I'm a good person."

STORY BOARD



NOTE

The software where I created this comic, would not allow me to save my pages in a very high quality. This caused the text in panel 6 to be unreadable. But, this did not affect the story!