**Sociology**

**“Ethics of Altruism and Moral Conduct Within Society”**

**For the purpose of this assignment, you will be watching the film *Seven Pounds* and examining the choices that Will Smith’s character Tim Thomas makes throughout the film. Complete the questions below and submit them to me to count in place of your final exam.**

**Question 1: How do determine a good person from a bad person?**

**Question 2: Which ethical system provides a better method for determining right and wrong? (The film seems to give equal priority to ethical duties and to consequences. On one hand, the notion that one should help another in need dominates the movie. However, on the other hand, it seems to be okay to do what it takes to achieve the desired results. The answer to this question may be a combination of both systems. Nonetheless, it is important to reflect upon this because of its practical implications.)**

**Question 3: Does Tim’s end justify his means? (means in question: impersonation of an IRS officer, accessing private databases illegally, committing suicide)**

**Question 4: What would Immanuel Kant say about Tim’s actions referred to in Question 3? Kant developed one of the most rigorous ethics in philosophy and his categorical imperative could not consistently be applied to actions like Tim’s. The CI, formulated in Kant’s The Metaphysics of Morals states, “Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.” In other words, the moral act would be right for anyone who finds themselves under similar circumstances. Moreover, the CI imposes a duty upon the moral agent irrespective of the results. What would Kant say about Tim’s impersonation of an IRS officer and Tim’s illegal use of private databases? IS it probable that Kant would disapprove of Tim’s actions despite the charitable results achieved?**