

King's Dream Is Still In Our Hearts

The Almighty Dr. King had a dream that one day this Nation will rise up and live out, the true meaning of its creed, that all men are created equal. He dreamed and prayed that all of God's children, black people and white, Jews and gentiles, protestants and Catholics, young and old, rich and poor would be able to join hands and sing in the words of that Negro spiritual song, "Free At Last." He dreamed, prayed, and kept the faith, and believed with all of his heart, mind, body and soul, that all people regardless of race, creed or national origin, could learn to live together as brothers in peace and harmony and not die together as fools.

The late King was a Baptist minister that preached and practiced his entire ministry on Christianity. Jesus laid the foundation in his life, and his only dream was to be a master builder, by using a nonviolent peaceful social change, because he one day wanted to be on Jesus' right or left side in love, justice and in truth.

He often preached that violence cannot be the answer, but love and understanding is the only way, truth and light for all mankind everywhere.

He drew no distinction between the high and low, black or white. None between the rich or poor, but only wanted to see more love, peace, harmony and goodwill to all mankind in all thoughts, words and actions.

His hope was to be able to work, pray, struggle, stand up for freedom and go to jail together if necessary. Knowing, one day, that we will be free at last.

To those of you that have for some reason forgotten why this day is so important, just let me update your memory on the great things this dedicated American, born again, civil rights, Christian leader worked and gave his life so diligently -- so we could have a better way of life.

In 1955, he led a boycott of buses in Montgomery to protest discrimination against Negro passengers. The boycott convinced many people that the civil rights could be won through nonviolence. In 1963 he led a big march in Alabama to protest city-wide racial discrimination. He staged a sit-in demonstration in St. Augustine, Florida in 1964, to guarantee voting rights for blacks. He led a march from Selma to the State Capitol on August 28, 1963. Two hundred thousand people marched from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial for racial equality and justice. The late King rejected separation and tried to pull together many groups in a campaign against poverty. He involved such groups as American Indians and Spanish speaking people. He planned poor peoples' march on Washington, but did not live to lead it.

His life struggle was to bring about a nonviolent social, political and economical equality change for the blacks, and refrain from the senseless looting, burning and vandalism which had been taking place in some of our communities.

In spite of his great emphasis on nonviolence, he often became the target of violence. He was stabbed

in New York City by a member of his own race and slugged in a hotel lobby. He was jailed thirty times, and lived day-by-day for thirteen years under constant threats of death. Occasionally, deeply hurt because friends betrayed him, but yet this man had no bitterness in his heart. He continued fighting on the battle field for a nonviolent social change keeping in mind the welfare of all mankind.

If any man knew the meaning of suffering, the late Dr. King knew it: He was determined to keep the faith until a sudden hidden fatal bullet took his life at the young age of 39, on April 4, 1968.

So many times before the loss of our great Christian leader, he often preached, "after my death, don't mention about my awards, nor the schools I have attended, but that I gave my life serving others. Please say that King tried to love somebody, and that I am a drum major for justice. I tried to feed the

hungry. I did try to clothe the naked. I did try to visit those in prison. I just wanted to help somebody as I passed along. If I can just cheer somebody with a song. If I can show somebody he's traveling wrong, then my living will not be in vain. If I can do my duty as a Christian ought. If I can bring salvation to a world once wrought. If I can spread the message as the master taught, then my living will not be in vain. Yes, Jesus, I want to be on your right or your left side, not for any selfish reason. I want to be on your right or left side - not in terms of some political kingdom or ambition. I just want to be there in love and in justice and in truth and in commitment to others, so that we can make of this old world a new world."

Yes, my fellowman, what would this old world have been like if the late Dr. King would have lived on?

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