

Our Greatness, My Service

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Fifty years ago, thousands of individuals gathered in Washington D.C to listen to one of the most influential civil rights activists, Martin Luther King Jr. The streets were filled with men and women carrying signs that displayed their thirst for equality. As King commenced his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech, the crowd held their tongues as they patiently listened to the reverend speak. Like a hurricane, his words drifted out into the crowd shattering the stiffness of their hearts. Decades later, this speech has been regurgitated across the nation. The dream that was once anticipated by people for years has now become a reality. From the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania to the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado, a plethora of people with a variety of different pigmentations can be found in conjunction to engage in the same activities; they are able to amalgamate and protest the inhumane homicides of young teens by authorities or simply enjoy a nice lunch. The little Caucasian and colored boys and girls can be located in public in tandem. Now everything is good right? However, this is only a percentage of the dream Dr. King strived to actualize. In order to fully advance Martin Luther King's dream, we must sacrifice our time to engage in services that ameliorate the community.

Before we can execute King's dream, we must first educate ourselves about King's philosophy. I am not implying that we spend countless hours at the library fixating our eyes upon confusing analytical texts about the topic, but rather thoroughly comprehend its content. By analyzing King's speech, not only are we able to learn the reason for his passionate aspiration, but also what we can do to advance it. The gist of the dream is Liberty. Liberty is an idea that King used as a mirror to allow us to reflect upon our unalienable rights:

Our right to enjoy dinners in diners of our hearts' desire, our rights to enter buildings of our choice without being glared at with eyes like blades that slice up our confidence into pieces, our right to participate in activities that occur in our communities, our right to live life as we want, and not according to the coloration of our skin.

Once we have developed a greater understanding of King's ideology, we are then able to exert our knowledge by discovering ways to serve our community. As many people recite, actions speak louder than words. All can murmur the rhythmic tune of king's speech. Although, to truly show how compelling his words were, to have penetrated through our hearts leaving us hankering for equality, we must take hold of his poetic terms floating about our heads and bring them into play. The best way to accomplish our service is to regard Dr. King as our role-model. To demonstrate that he was a man of value, King never ceased to show affection for his community. Not only did he strive for his own freedom but also for his whole race as well.

Instead of being consumed with technology, having our five senses to react to every ding and buzz as if it were a drug, we need to do something productive. We can use our valuable time to volunteer in various programs that aide people of all colors who are homeless or with disabilities. Instead of situating ourselves into the same position on our sofas to watch television, we can go outside, join hands with our neighbors, and move forward to aid our colorful community. Instead of renovating our shoe collection every week in hopes to impress our peers, we can use a portion of our earnings to aide those in need. Instead of using one-hundred-forty characters to explain our passion about *wanting* to make a change, we can put down our cellular devices and actually **make a change**. No matter how big or small our contribution is, it still counts because it benefits the community.

Let us be like Noah and build our own ark. We build an ark by performing one Act of Random Kindness at a time. Let us follow the example of the late Reverend Myles Munroe and "die empty ", with assurance that we have served others with all our might. Let us strive to be like Martin Luther King. Decades ago he broke the chains that bound us to poles of discrimination, segregation, and injustice. Therefore we must take advantage of this freedom, wear it as a royal garment, and serve our community with pride. He tore down barriers and paved the way for us to have a say in our community. Now it is our time for us to step up and accept a leadership role of service. We must serve with humility, passion, and love. The journey of servitude does not have to begin in a foreign country. It can start in our community. It can start in our schools. It can start when we merely open our doors, if we allow it.