



35 Of My All-Time
Favorite
Martin Luther King
Quotations

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was an outstanding preacher, speaker and writer.

He was adept at challenging and inspiring others with his powerful words, ones that invariably led to actions that paved the way to racial equality, leaving the world a better and more peaceful place.

Below are my all-time favorite quotations. I feel that they are as relevant today, as they were, when they evoked unsurpassed solidarity and unity in the 60's.

May freedom continue to ring and reign, resonating with future generations, leading us into that glorious Promised Land, he so eloquently spoke of.

Suggestions: Make an overhead of these quotes and have students choose one or two to write about. They can explain why they like it, what it means, or how it motivates them.

Through out the month of January, write one of MLK's quotes on the board. As a Daily 5 activity have students record it in their writing journal and comment on it.

Students can also select a quote and make a poster around it. Have students carry their posters in a peaceful mock-march through the hallways of your school, or on the playground.

Their posters will make a wonderful January bulletin board to help celebrate Martin Luther King Day.



Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door, which leads to ultimate reality.

We must use time creatively, and forever realize that the time is always right to do right.

Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

Justice too long delayed, is justice denied.

Men often hate each other because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they cannot communicate; they cannot communicate because they are separated.

Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time.

Man must evolve for all human conflict a method, which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction ... The chain reaction of evil -- hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars -- must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.



I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

Let no man pull you low enough to hate him.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars...hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.

Ten thousand fools proclaim themselves into obscurity, while one wise man forgets himself into immortality.

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to



love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle. And so we must straighten our backs and work for our freedom. A man can't ride you unless your back is bent.

Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.

I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and

Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last."



The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.

We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.

If we are to go forward, we must go back and rediscover those precious values - that all reality hinges on moral foundations and that all reality has spiritual control.



Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing.

I have a dream! That one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

"Free at last. Free at last; great God all-mighty, we are free at last."

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