

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights legend during the 1950s civil rights movement. His fight against segregation and racial prejudice in the United States through the means of non-violent protests is one of the main reasons the issue of racism made it into the national spotlight. Some of the most iconic speeches of the 20th century were written by Dr. King. Which is why we can take the time to analyze small quotes from these speeches to understand and live through his legacy.

While marching for integrated schools on April 18th 1959, Dr. King announced these famous words, "Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in". This quote really shows what Dr. King's legacy stood for. He himself could not end the racial discrimination against black people in America. He simply inspired the people around him to fight for "the noble struggle of equal rights". His words and passion for equality not only inspired the people around him but united the black community in America.

His legacy also includes fighting for all these things but in a non-violent way. Part of Dr. King's legacy can be traced back to Mohandas Gandhi, another renowned pacifist. Gandhi used nonviolent methods to gain India's independence from the British and Dr. King drew great inspiration from this. He knew that his whole hope for equality would be undermined if he pursued his goals in a violent way. Which is why peaceful protests such as marching and boycotts were mainly used. Dr. King's use and subsequent success with these types of protests led to future generations changing their way of protest.

Finally, when Dr. King says "You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in". The world is constantly changing but if we take the time to look at ourselves and our community and learn to improve it we can live forward Dr. King's legacy. If we are constantly reviewing ourselves and making sure we are in equity we will make not just make our community a better place to be but our nation as a whole. This is how Dr. King's legacy can be lived forward. He was the first person to inspire change but it is now our job to continue in that spirit of change.

Eden prairie as a community can take many steps into living forward Dr. King's legacy. One thing we can do is celebrate Dr. King on more than just Martin Luther King Jr. day. We can hold a celebration every month and keep his memory alive. Another thing our city could do is hold a diversity fair. In this fair people from all sorts of different backgrounds and cultures can come together to learn about each other. This would promote Dr. King's legacy by promoting equality. Finally in school we can have a separate unit for learning about Dr. King so his work in the civil rights movement can inspire the younger generation. This could be added to the curriculum for every grade level making Dr. King's work live on through the next generation.

In conclusion we can remember Dr. King as a lot of things. I remember him as a man who was able to inspire the people around him with his moving words. Additionally, he instilled the fact that we can improve ourselves even to this day and that we are not perfect! His legacy is immortalized in the hearts of all Americans. But it is still alive today. All the social changes we are seeing in the world can be traced back to Martin Luther King Jr. He was a real trailblazer and is someone we can all look up to today.

WINNER, 13-18  
**SPANDAN DATTA**  
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**Which Martin Luther King, Jr. quote are you referencing for your submission?**

"If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving." (April 10, 1960; Speech at Spelman College)