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We will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.” His work wasn’t just built around the March on Washington or the “I Have a Dream” speech but also through representation and persuasion in politics. He encouraged others to use this strength to make a better change because he believed that nonviolence was more ethical. Committing violence towards the oppressor would be hypocritical and paradoxical. He disciplined himself so that even in the face of danger, he kept composure. This inspired me to do my part in serving others.

His impact was felt beyond his most famous speech. Martin Luther King Jr.’s philosophy in the American Civil Rights Movement was inspired by the teachings of Jesus. Finding his place in the world, he knew that he was tired of bigotry and hatred and couldn’t bear to witness it any longer. He frowned upon silence because he believed silence is a form of complicity. So, he spoke to presidents and politicians such as Lyndon B. Johnson. He collaborated with President Johnson on passing the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act. He knew that silence would not be effective, so he made his voice louder by speaking with millions of Americans. As he said, “We will remember not the word of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

Wise men like Gandhi called people to “hate the sin, love the sinner,” which inspired Dr. King. Because of this, he made a change with tactics such as the Montgomery bus boycott, the Selma march, and even the March on Washington. Even after all of Dr. King’s work, his job is unfinished.

Dr. King fought for the equality of all people but even today, not all people are equal. One fight MLK Jr. had was his fight for the working class. Many in the working class face increasing economic challenges today. Housing, education, and healthcare are all becoming less and less accessible to the working people. As he once said, “What good is having the right to sit at a lunch counter, if you can’t afford a hamburger?” His work can be finished, which he laid out the foundation when he said, “We must create full employment or we must create incomes.” This means that the wages of the working class being fair would be a good start. Many jobs require post-secondary education but when that is unaffordable it makes those jobs unachievable. Only then will the foundation of his work be complete.

Because of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I am in pursuit of greatness and like MLK Jr., dedicated to helping others. Being a member of the National Honor Society has placed me on the right path—one focused on serving others, not just myself. I have made it my goal to be as highly educated as possible in psychology. I will help all groups of people through therapy. I will use my power to vote for what I believe is right and against what I believe is wrong. I will use my education to lead others along a similar path. Dr. King’s vision inspired me to use my education, voice, and actions to serve others and continue the fight for equality and justice.