

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

2010

FIRST GIVING HONOR TO GOD, THEN TO JESUS, HIS DARLING SON AND FINALLY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT THE COMFORTER TO US ALL. NOW TO YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTER, WHO HAVE HONORED ME, BY INVITING ME TO BE YOUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER TODAY, I'LL TELL YOU THAT I COME HERE TODAY WITH A HUMBLE HEART AND GREAT APPRECIATION.

NOW I KNOW THAT A GOOD SPEAKER IS SUPPOSED TO BE INTERESTING, BE ACCURATE, BE INFORMATIVE AND MAYBE INSPIRATIONAL, BE BRIEF AND THEN BE SEATED. I WILL TRY TO FOLLOW THESE RULES AND BE BRIEF NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES ME. BUT FIRST, I ASK THAT YOU TO INDULGE ME JUST FOR A QUICK MOMENT, I JUST WANT TO SAY A PRAYER.

DEAR GOD LET EVERY MAN, WOMEN AND CHILD HERE EXAMINES HIM OR HERSELVES. HELP US TO SEE OH LORD, WHAT IS IMPORTANT, WHAT IS RELEVANT AND WHAT IS ETERNAL. HELP US TO BE CAPTURED BY YOUR LOVE, TO BE OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GRACE, TO BE

INSPIRED BY YOUR WORD, TO BE ELATED BY YOUR WONDERS, AND MOST IMPORTANT GOD HELP ALL US TO BE LED BY YOUR WISDOM AMEN.

NOW I WANT YOU TO HUSH, HUSH, LISTEN, SOMEBODY IS CALLING OUR NAMES, I SAID HUSH CAN'T YOU HEAR OUR ANCESTORS, MARTIN, ROSA, MALCOLM, YOUR GRANDPARENTS SOME OF OUR MOTHERS AND FATHERS. DON'T YOU HEAR THEIR VOICES, IT IS THE VOICES OF THE THOUSANDS, WHO HAVE DIED IN THE FIELDS AND WERE SLAVES BEFORE US, WHO DIED IN THE STREETS, BEATEN AND BATTERED AND JAILED THROUGH OUT THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY, SO THAT YOU AND I COULD SIT HERE TODAY IN OUR SUITS AND CELEBRATE WHAT DR. KING AND ALL OF THEM DID FOR US. DON'T YOU KNOW THEY ARE WATCHING US AND SEEING WHAT WE HAVE DONE WITH ALL THEIR SACRIFICES? YES THEY ARE CALLING OUR NAMES, CALLING US TO WAKE UP, TO STAND UP, AND TAKE THAT LONG WALK TOWARDS RECLAIMING OUR CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES. OH MY LORD , OH MY LORD WHAT SHALL WE DO?

THE THEME OF TODAY'S PROGRAM AS I UNDERSTAND IT IS "DR. KING'S DREAM WILL LIVE FOREVER." THAT IS QUITE POSSIBLE AND IT MIGHT

BE TRUE BUT EVENTUALLY WE HAVE TO WAKE UP OUT OF DREAM AND YOU NEED TO KNOW , IT MATTERS NOT WHAT THE TEE SHIRTS SAYS DR. KING'S DREAM HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED. ADMITTEDLY, WE HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS BUT YOU CAN LOOK AROUND THIS CITY AND KNOW WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED JUSTICE OR EQUALITY. DR. KING ONCE STATED THAT SOMETIMES A SOCIETY HAS AN ILLNESS THAT RUNS SO DEEP, **AND HAS BEEN AROUND SO LONG, THAT MOST PEOPLE, EVEN THE ONE'S THAT ARE DISEASE'S SEE IT AS A NORMAL, UNCHANGEABLE CONDITION,** AND WHEN SOMEONE LIKE DR. KING COMES ALONG AND SAY THIS IS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING RIGHT, FAIR OR JUST, THEN LIKE DR.KING, THEY ARE CONSIDERED AGITATERS AND OUTSIDERS. KNOW THAT IF THE STATUS QUO WORKS FOR SOME PEOPLE , WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO CHANGE IT? BUT DR. KING FELT MORRALLY OBLIGATED TO DO WHAT HE KNEW WAS RIGHT AND HE POLITELY STATED "I AM HERE BECAUSE, INJUSTICE IS HERE.....AND LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL, SO AM I COMPELLED TO CARRY THE GOSPEL OF FREEDOM. INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

WE ALL KNOW THAT IN DR. KING'S SHORT LIFE, HE WAS FOCUSED IN SEVEN AREAS; THE COMMUNITY OF MAN, RACISM, CIVIL RIGHTS,

JUSTICE AND FREEDOM, FAITH AND RELIGION, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE. HE MADE GREAT STRIDES, CONTRIBUTION AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN ALLTHOSE AREAS. THEN HE CONTRIBUTED TO MONUMENTAL LEGISLATION, **THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964**, WHICH OUTLAWED **RACIAL SEGREGATION**, RACIAL AND GENDER **DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT** AND **BARRED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM AIDING INSTITUTION THAT DISCRIMIATED AGAINST US. THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965**, THAT **GUARANTEED SOUTHERN BLACKS THE RIGHT TO VOTE** FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY CASES SINCE THE END OF RECONSTRUCTION. TOGETHER THESE GREAT PIECES OF LEGISLATION CONSTITUTED THE MAGNA CARTA OF AFRICAN AMERICANS BECAUSE THEY ESSENTIALLY ELIMINATED THE LEGAL BASIS, FOR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HOWEVER, INSPITE OF THE PROGRESS DR. KING HAD MADE HE KNEW THAT SOCIAL JUSTICE WAS NOTHING WITHOUT ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND THAT HAS NOT CHANGED MY FRIENDS. WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO ANY OF US TO BE ABLE TO GO TO BISTREAU ON THE BAYOU IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD ANYTHING ON THE MENU. DR. KING STATED THAT "JOBS ARE COSTLIER AND HARDER TO CREATE THAN VOTER ROLLS. THE ERADICATION OF SLUMS AND THEN HOUSING MILLIONS IN SAFE, SANITARY AND DECENT HOUSING IS

FAR MORE COMPLEX THAN INTERGRATING BUSES AND LUNCH COUNTERS.

HAD DR. KING LIVED, HE WOULD BE 81 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR. UNFORTUNATELY HE DIED AT THE EARLY AGE OF 39. WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE BECAUSE IN THE VERY SHORT TIME THAT HE LIVED, HE TOUCHED THE CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA AND BROUGHT US **CLOSER** TO THE IDEALS ON WHICH AMERICAN WAS FOUNDED. BY HIS EXAMPLE AND HIS LEADERSHIP HE GUIDED US, IN A PEACEFUL WAY, TO STAND UP FOR EQUALITY, FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITY AND BROTHERHOOD. WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE BECAUSE WITHOUT QUESTION HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST CHARISMATIC, COURAGEOUS LEADERS IN ALL OF OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY. WE CELEBRATE HIS LIFE BECAUSE HE WAS A SOCIAL REVOLUTIONARY WHO HAD A PROFOUND MORAL SENSE, OF WHAT WAS RIGHT AND WRONG, FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE. DR. KING UNDERSTOOD THAT BEING BLACK IN AMERICA WAS NOT COMFORTABLE; AND IT STILL ISN'T. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME JUST WATCH THE NEWS AND SEE HOW AMERICA TREATS THE NOW AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT. I CRINGE, SHUTTER AND NEARLY CRY EVERY TIME I SEE SOME RUDE, UGLY, DISRESPECTFUL PERSON INSULT AND DISRESPECT PRESIDENT OBAMA. I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED BY SOME

AMERICANS. I OFTEN WONDER WHAT DR. KING WOULD THINK IF HE WITNESSED THIS. I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT HE WOULD SAY BECAUSE I HEARD HIM SPEAK THESE WORDS. I QUOTE "LIKE LIFE, RACIAL UNDERSTANDING IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE FIND BUT SOMETHING THAT WE MUST CREATE. AND SO THE ABILITY OF BLACKS AND WHITES TO WORK TOGETHER, TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, WILL NOT BE FOUND READYMADE; IT MUST BE CREATED BY THE FACT OF CONTACT. AND I WANT TO ADD THERE MUST BE A SINCERE WILLINGNESS OF ALL PARTIES INVOLVED.

THE OTHER NIGHT I ATTENDED A REVIVAL AND A MINISTER FROM ANOTHER CITY PREACHED ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE OUT OF THE BOOK OF EPHISIAN AND HE CAUGHT MY ATTENTION WHEN HE SAID THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS A SPIRITUAL ATTACK ON THIS CITY AND THERE WAS SPIRITUAL WICKNESS IN HIGH PLACES. HE STATED "BE CAREFUL WHO YOU VOTE IN OFFICE BECAUSE THEY CAN AND DO CONTROL YOUR CITY. EVEN IN PAULS DAY WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT THE POWERS THAT BE. PAUL WAS SPEAKING OF THOSE THAT OPERATED GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS. IT IS GOVERNMENT THAT KEEPS PEOPLE IN BONDGAGE.HE STATED THAT THIS CITY LIVES WITH A SPIRIT OF DECEPTION AND PEOPLE CAN CONTROL YOU AS LONG AS THEY ARE IN

CONTROL. WE ARE KEPT IN DARKNESS HE SAID. HOW? BY KEEPING INFORMATION FROM YOU, LIKE GRANTS, BIDS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. WE GET INFORMATION AFTER ALL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. WHAT HE STATED IS THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO SIT HERE AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A WARD ROBE FOR WAR FARE GET DRESSED. IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU ARE GETTING FROM YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, WHY DON'T YOU VOTE THEM ALL OUT OF OFFICE? THE ONLY WAY TO GET CHANGE HE STATED IS TO GET THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN OFFICE. IF WE WANT TO SEE TRUE CHANGE, DO WHAT YOU HAVE NEVER DONE IF YOU WANT TO GET WHAT YOU HAVE NEVER HAD AND THEN WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS RULE, THE CITY WILL REJOICE BUT WHEN THE WICKET RULES THEN THE CITY WILL MOURN BECAUSE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN POVERTY." LOOK AROUND US ARE WE REJOICING?

I'M SAYING TO YOU THAT I SHOULD NOT TO BEG YOU TO GO TO THE POLLS AND VOTE. I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BEG YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING IN ORDER TO MAKE YOUR OWN COMMUNITIES SAFE. I'M SO SICK OF ALL THE LIP SERVICE, DO SOMETHING, ORGANIZE YOU NEED TO BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE.

TO QUOTE REV. SHARPTON, DR. KING DID NOT TALK THE FIGHT, DR. KING FOUGHT THE FIGHT AND RECOGNIZE THAT HE HAD NO E-MAIL , NO CELL PHONE, HE COULDN'T GO ON LINE YET HE ORGANIZED A COUNTRY. TELL ME WHY IS SO HARD FOR ALL OF US TO GET TOGETHER FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING TO BETTER OUR OWN EXISTENCE

WOULD DR. KING, HAD HE LIVED, BE PROUD OF US TODAY? WOULD HE HAVE BOAST ABOUT THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE, WOULD HE HAVE SEEN WITH THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA THAT WE HAD OVERCOME. I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK HE WOULD HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED OUR PROGRESS BUT HE WOULD STILL BE COMMITTED TO FIGHTING FOR THAT WHICH HE BELIEVED IN; SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, FAIRNESS, FREEDOM AND FAITH, PEACE, NON-VIOLENCE AND NON DISCRIMINATION. I THINK HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SADDEN BY THE COMPLACENCY OF MANY OF US WHO STILL DO NOT VOTE, FOOLISHLY BELIEVING THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING. WE MUST LEARN THAT TO EXPECT THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING WHILE WE DO NOTHING IS NOT FAITH, IT FOOLISH. I THINK DR. KING WOULD HE BE EMBARRASSED BY THE



BLACK ON BLACK CRIME RATE, THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF DROP OUTS WE HAVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES OR THE NUMBER OF YOUNG BLACK BOYS AND GIRLS WEARING PANTS TO THEIR KNEES AND SKIRTS WELL ABOVE THEIR THIGHS WITH ALL THEIR MID DRIFTS OUT, OFTEN STANDING ON STREET CORNERS WITH NO JOB, NO EDUCATION AND NO HOPE, I THINK HE WOULD HE HANG HIS HEAD IN SHAME ABOUT SO MANY AFRICAN AMERICAN ATHLETES WHO HAVE MADE IT THE TOP AND THEN DO SO MANY STUPID THINGS INVOLVING GUNS, WOMEN, WINE AND GAMBLING. I THINK IT WOULD HURT DR.KING'S HEART, TO SEE SOME OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE MASSES OF PEOPLE AND WHY THEY WERE PUT IN OFFICE. I BELIEVED HE WOULD BE HURT BECAUSE HE ALWAYS SAID THAT "THE TRUE VICTORY WAS THAT BLACK MEN AND WOMEN WERE ARMED WITH DIGNITY AND SELF RESPECT AND WE STRIGHTENED OUT OUR BACKS. HE STATED A MAN CAN'T RIDE YOUR BACK IF IT IS NOT BENT. BACK THEN WE DID WHAT WAS BEST FOR US ALL. I HOPE IN HONORING DR. KING, TODAY IS NOT JUST A DAY OFF FOR YOU, MY PRAYER FOR ALL OF US IS AS IT WAS WHEN I BEGAN.

THE LIBERAL SOUL SHALL BE MADE FAT; AND HE THAT WATERETH OTHER SHALL BE WATERED ALSO HIMSELF...

ARE YOU GETTING WET?

A MAN'S HEART DEVISETH HIS WAY: BUT THE LORD DIRECTETH HIS STEPS...

ARE YOUR STEPS ORDERED

A MAN'S GIFT MAKETH ROOM FOR HIM AND BRINGETH HIM BEFORE GREAT MEN

WHERE ARE YOU STANDING?

A TREE IS KNOWN BY THE FRUIT IT BEARS

WHAT ARE YOU BEARING?

BUT LET EVERY MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF. LORD HELP US TO SEE WHAT IS IMPORTANT, WHAT IS RELEVANT AND WHAT IS ETERNAL. HELP US LORD TO BE CAPTURED BY YOUR LOVE, OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GRACE, TO INSPIRED BY YOUR WORD, TO BE ELATED BY YOUR WONDERS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO BE LED BY YOUR WISDOM. THESE THINGS I PRAY IN JESUS NAME AMEN. THANK YOU