



Human Rights Quotes from Martin Luther King

Factsheet Seven

- **“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”**
-- "Letter from Birmingham Jail," 16 April 1963
- **“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”**
-- Speech in St. Louis, Missouri, March 22, 1964
- **“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. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others.”**
-- *Strength to Love* (1963)
- **“We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.”**
-- "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963
- **“ I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”**
-- "I Have a Dream" speech, August 28, 1963
- **“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”**
-- *Strength to Love* (1963)

- **“If a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live.”**
-- Speech in Detroit, Michigan on June 23, 1963
- **“The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”**
-- *Strength to Love* (1963), Ch. 7
- **“Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”**
-- "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963
- **“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”**
-- "I Have a Dream" speech, August 28, 1963
- **“I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and willingly accepts the penalty by staying in jail in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the very highest respect for the law.”**
-- "Letter from Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963
- **“It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important.”**
-- Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 13, 1962
- **“I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.”**
-- Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, December 10, 1964
- **“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.”**
-- "I Have a Dream" speech, August 28, 1963