



Thurgood Marshall

By
Trustee Johnny Moore

Day 11
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Scriptures for Mediation

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

Philippians 2:3

Critical Race Facts!

President Johnson, a Unionist former slaveholder from Tennessee, served as vice president during the Civil War and assumed the presidency after Lincoln's assassination in April 1865. Though he initially promised to punish Southern "traitors," Johnson issued 700 pardons to secessionists by 1866. He also rescinded orders granting Black farmers tracts of land confiscated from Confederates. This greatly impeded formerly enslaved people's ability to build their own farms because whites routinely refused to provide them credit, effectively barring Black people from purchasing land without government assistance.

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the champions of justice that have reflected and represented our community. Help us to intentionally reflect and represent our community that will bring promise, pride and progress to future generations. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Thurgood Marshall founded the Legal Defense Fund in 1940 and served as its first Director Counsel. He was the architect of the legal strategy that ended the country's official policy of segregation. Marshall was the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court.

Marshall was a practicing attorney and argued a record breaking 32 cases before the Supreme Court and won 29 of them. In fact, Marshall represented and won more cases before the high courts than any other person. As an attorney fighting to secure equality and justice through the courts, Marshall helped to build the legal foundation for Martin Luther King, Jr's challenge for segregation. Marshall argued several landmark court cases that banned segregation practices most notably "Smith vs Wright 1944" which won Blacks the right to vote in Texas primaries; "Morgan vs Virginia 1946" which banned segregation on interstate passenger carriers and "Sweatt vs Painter 1950" which required the admittance of a qualified black student to the University of Texas Law School.

Marshall's most historic victory came in 1954 with Brown vs Board of Education where he argued successfully against the doctrine of separate but equal, convincing the court that segregated schools were inherently unequal, which began the process of school de-segregation.

In 1961 President John F. Kennedy appointed Marshall to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, making him the second African American to serve as a Federal Appellate Judge. From 1965 to 1967, Marshall served under President Lyndon Johnson as Solicitor General the government's Chief Appellate Lawyer before the Supreme Court, another first for an African American.

In 1967 Marshall was confirmed to the Supreme Court where he remained the first and only African American Justice until he retired in 1991.

Questions to Ponder

Which case represented by Thurgood Marshall had the greatest impact on your life? How so? How have you made the most of that opportunity?

