



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Sister Jessica Coker

Day 25
March 22, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Critical Race Fact!

In February 1898, a white mob in Lake City, South Carolina, set fire to the home of the baker family and riddled it with gunshots, killing Frazier Baker and his infant daughter, Julia, and leaving his wife and five surviving children wounded and traumatized. Baker, a Black man, had aroused the hatred of the predominately white community when President William McKinley appointed him to the position of local postmaster. After efforts to have Baker removed from the post failed, local whites resorted to mob violence. The murder prompted a national campaign of letter writing, activism, and advocacy spearheaded by Wells and others, which ultimately persuaded President McKinley to order a federal investigation that resulted in the prosecution of eleven white men implicated in Baker lynching. Despite ample evidence, an all-white jury refused to convict any of the defendants.

Today’s Prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the life and legacy of Dr. King. Help me to live a life and leave a legacy that others will cherish and desire. In Jesus name, amen.

I was first introduced to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. by a family friend that rushed through our back door and announced, “Our leader was just assassinated!” On that April 4th night of 1968, I did not know we had a leader, let alone know Dr. King. On April 8, 1968, the day of his funeral, my second-grade teacher (a member of Zion) demonstrated nurturing love by allowing us to mourn the death of this leader, a spokesperson for the civil rights of black people and others.

I later learned that Dr. King and I shared the same January birthdate. I became intrigued and wanted to inquire more about him. I realized that first and foremost, he was a Reverend. In Sunday school and church, we learned that a Reverend is a man that committed his life to following Jesus Christ. The passion and commitment of Reverend King was like that of Jesus, our Savior. Like Jesus, he demonstrated and taught about equality, love, and unity for all people. Like Jesus, he died trying to help others in a non-violent manner. Jesus, as we were taught, was the ultimate Leader and Ruler of the Earth. God sent His Only Son to show how much He loves us. Jesus loved so much that He laid down His life to redeem our sinful souls.

My mother and family demonstrated love in our home. As children, we witnessed this by not knowing we were classified as a low-income family or that we were of a different ethnic race. We lived in the “projects”, received state financial assistance, and received “hand me down” clothes and toys. We were taught to love one another as I [Christ] have loved you. Reverend Dr. King, my birthday mate, turned posthumous mentor, exhibited his love by giving speeches, writing letters, going to jail, and even dying to ensure the moral civil rights of African Americans. But none can compare to Jesus, whose life of Love gives eternal life. The proof is written throughout the Bible!

Questions to Ponder

Which historic figure have you valued the most as a mentor? What is it about her or him that inspires you most? What qualities do you possess that others admires? How have you intentionally mentored someone else?

