

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

TABLE OF DUTIES (PART 1)

STORY

His home was bombed. He was beaten, stabbed and jailed. He received countless death threats and was killed by an assassin when he was thirty-nine. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived and died for his beliefs, founded in his Christian faith, that all people are created equal and are equally loved by God, who makes no distinctions. King's faith-filled message of equality for black people contributed significantly in the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. His nonviolent movement for social change was met with violence, murder, hatred, and injustice. Civil rights workers were beaten, jailed, and killed while seeking the right to vote, equal access to health care and education, and an end to segregated public facilities. Congress finally passed civil rights legislation, and in 1964, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

A powerful preacher, King was known for sermons calling for a new day when little black boys and girls would be able to join hands with little white children as sisters and brothers and sing in the words of the old spiritual "Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty we are free at last."

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Discuss the attitude of Jesus toward Church and government leaders. *Jesus taught and practiced obedience to those in authority.*
2. Discuss the difference between changing laws and changing people's hearts. *Laws can be changed through human action; hearts can only be changed through God's work.*
3. Under what circumstances would God have us work against and even disobey those in authority over us? *We are to honor God over those in authority. We may disobey demands of authorities that contradict the teachings of God's Word (see Acts 5:29).*