



As I write this piece, I have just been listening to a remembrance on the radio of Dr. Martin Luther King who died on April 4, 1968, fifty years ago this week. The speaker in this piece was very honest in acknowledging Dr. King's frame of mind just before he died. He was in some ways discouraged. There had been race riots around the nation; these were further complicated by outspoken criticism of the Vietnam War. The country was in turmoil, and it did not appear that Dr. King's dream of equality and an end to oppression was about to be realized in the near future. He had come to Memphis in support of the sanitation workers there who were trying to get better pay and working conditions. He did this out of his dedication to ending poverty. The night before he was assassinated he gave his famous *Mountaintop* speech, where he seemed to acknowledge the possibility of his imminent death. And yet, though the Civil Rights Movement was facing many challenges, Dr. King stayed ever faithful to the gospel message of hope: hope that his struggle for the alleviation of poverty would become a reality; hope that equality and an end to oppression would one day come; hope, ultimately, that the Kingdom of God will prevail.

In his final speech at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Dr. King said, "I just want to do God's will." It is very clear from his *Drum Major Instinct* speech that he knew what God's will for him was – it was to respond to Jesus's message to take care of the poor. In the following quote from this speech, he speaks prophetically about the day of his own funeral.

- I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. [Yes]
- I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody.
- I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. [Amen]
- I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. [Yes]
- And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. [Yes]
- I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. [Lord]
- I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. [Yes]

Even when there is trouble and discord in the world, let us pray fervently and with great hope in our hearts, that God's kingdom will come, that the world will turn towards Dr. King's vision of peace, justice, and an end to oppression for all people. — Ruth

Martin Luther King Jr. and the Global Freedom Struggle.
http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documententry/doc_the_drum_major_instinct/

NOTES FROM SARAH OVERFELT... CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

Sparks: WOW!! We had a great turn out for our Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday! It was estimated to be about 72 people that showed up in our courtyard to fellowship and enjoy the hunt for eggs. I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who brought in eggs and candy, and to all the youth that stuffed them!

Kaleo: NOTICE: I am in need of final decisions about camps! If you are going on one of our camps please let me know ASAP! I will also need waivers/permission slips to be filled out, along with deposits. WE will be doing fundraisers, and there are scholarships available. A list of fundraisers will be coming out in next week's *Inspire*.

This Week's Daily Bible Readings					
Growing with God's Word in Hope					
			Wednesday	April 11	1 Peter 4:1-19
Sunday	April 8	1 Peter 1:1-25	Thursday	April 12	1 Peter 5:1-14
Monday	April 9	1 Peter 2:1-25	Friday	April 13	2 Peter 1:1-21
Tuesday	April 10	1 Peter 3:1-22	Saturday	April 14	2 Peter 2:1-22