

Martin Luther King, Jr.
“Letter from Birmingham Jail” and the sermon “Love in Action”

Important passages

- JJ-5: The four basic steps to a peaceful campaign:
 - Collection of facts
 - Negotiation
 - Self-purification
 - Direct action

- JJ-5: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice evrywhere
- JJ-6: Freedom must be demanded by the oppressed
- JJ-7: Just and unjust laws
- JJ-8: Breaking unjust laws is the highest regard for law
- JJ-8: White moderates are a bigger threat than KKK
- JJ-8: To condemn peaceful demonstrations is wrong even if violence results
- JJ-9: MLK calls out Elijah Muhammad
- JJ-9: MLK labeled an extremist
- JJ-10: Extreme in ideas is a thing, and extreme in actions is another
- JJ-10: Does the Gospel concern social issues?
- JJ-11: Freedom will be reached; it is the goal of America
- JJ-11: Church: thermometer vs thermostat
- JJ-12: It's bad to use moral means to preserve moral things
- JJ-13: Commandments for the volunteers
- JJ-14: Bridge gaps between words and actions
- JJ-14: White people claim to be Christians, but they are not in practice
- JJ-15: Society entices White people to be racist; therefore Black people should practice forgiveness
- JJ-16: Ideology of White racism
- JJ-16: Man created an image of God

Important Ideas

- One question to think about: Who has the better approach, MLK or Malcolm X?
- Both are very active and both most probably agree with DuBois rather than Booker T, but they have two different ways of preaching.
- Reaction of the American public when each one of them was killed: it was a very unfortunate event to lose Malcolm X, but the death of MLK had a stronger impact all over the nation.
- MLK talks a lot about Western and Christian traditions in his speeches when referring to White people.