

Then my living will not be in vain .



In Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963, the civil rights movement filled the jails for the first time. The full force of the police establishment was used against them and more than 5,000 people including men, women and children, went to jail. The use of clubs and fire hoses shocked the American public and brought the movement into the living rooms of the nation.



Death threats come early: In St. Augustine, Florida, in 1964, King's rented cottage was the target of a bullet.

In September, 1958, King was stabbed in the chest by a New York woman while autographing his book, *Stride Toward Freedom*.



"Then my living will not be in vain"

Every now and then I guess we all think realistically about that day when we will be victimized with what is life's final common denominator—that something we call death.

We all think about it, and every now and then I think about my own death, and I think about my own funeral. And I don't think about it in a morbid sense. And every now and then I ask myself what it is that I would want said and I leave the word to you this morning.

If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral.

And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell him not to talk too long.

And every now and then I wonder what I want him to say. Tell him not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize.

That isn't so important.

Tell him not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards—that's not important. Tell him not to mention where I went to school.

I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others.

I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody.

I want you to say that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked.

I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.

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"In a sense all life is interrelated. The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich. We are inevitably our brother's keeper because we are our brother's brother. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

—Martin Luther King, Jr. 1967

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