

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Special Edition 2000

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSA PARKS

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Rosa Parks is famously known as "the mother of the civil rights movement." Her refusal to give up her seat for a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus on December 1, 1955 became a turning point in American history. Rosa Parks was physically tired, especially of the treatment she and other African Americans received with racism, segregation, and Jim Crow laws of the time.

Parks was later arrested for her defiance and underwent trial. Drawing from her quiet strength, she became relentless by organizing a 381-day Montgomery bus boycott which led to the Supreme Court's ruling in November 1956 that segregation on transportation is unconstitutional.

**Q: Our theme this year is "A Call to Action." You have exemplified that mindset even before your arrest in 1955 by serving as secretary of the NAACP and later Adviser to the NAACP Youth Council. How can we be catalysts for societal change?**

**Rosa Parks:** By helping one another. It just takes one person treating another person with respect and kindness to change society.

**Q: You have also been a model of service for the greater good. What kind of inner work is needed to respond to the urge or calling?**

**Rosa Parks:** Start by teaching the children to respect one another. I am always concerned about children and human rights in general. We must take care of the children and we must respect the rights of all people to be free.

**Q: You and your family have endured much discrimination for being African American. What is the source that you tapped into during times of trouble and discernment?**

**Rosa Parks:** God. My mother and grandparents taught me to pray as a child. They taught me not to lean on my own understanding but to draw my strength from God. I have always had faith and believed if you do the right thing, it will work out in the end.

**Q: Regarding Martin Luther King, a verdict was decided by a Memphis jury that Dr. King's assassination was a conspiracy. Do you have any thoughts on this case?**

**Rosa Parks:** No. I am just pleased to know that his children are getting some well deserved answers to their questions.



photo by Moneta Sleet, Jr.  
Mrs. Rosa Parks, "the mother of the civil rights movement" is shown with Martin Luther King, Jr. at left.

### "A Call To Action"

In the midst of economic chaos, disinformation, a crisis in education, wars and other diversions, we are being called upon to be a people of conviction, not conformity.

Transformative change in the new millenium will not come from the top down but as a grassroots effort from the bottom up. Please join us in this year's Martin Luther King special edition to heed the "Call to Action" in creating a New Societal Order that works for the good of the Whole.



*Did James Earl Ray act as a lone assassin or was he just a patsy in a major conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. The verdict is now in. For more on this, see page C14 and 15.*

