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“Now it is time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

The message that altered the perspective of many people. The speech that gave hope to black and white Americans alike that equality can be achieved. On August 28, 1963, the Civil Rights activist stood on the Lincoln Memorial steps, overlooking a crowd of over 200,000 people. He used the power of words to deliver his message. In doing so, he opened the eyes of society to an improved world and made this his legacy.

Martin Luther King Jr.’s goal that day was not to point out flaws, but rather provide insight on what needs to change. His main idea was that people should unite and thrive together and not let race divide them. It was a call for ending racism in a country that is built on the concepts of freedom and equality. He proved to all Americans that segregation was not an accurate representation of how the USA should be. With that, he described his dreams. Dreams that consisted of being judged for who you are rather than what you look like, dreams of a country where all people are truly created as equals, and dreams of society rising to the “sunlit path of racial justice.”

In my life, I am glad I live in a place where diverse races and communities are welcome. However, I recognize that other parts of the country are different. I hear stories on the news of violence against certain races. Unfortunately, in the 21st century, society still fails to realize that we are all human. So, my aspiration for the nation is acceptance. Building off Dr. King’s ideas, not only should all individuals be created as equals, but also everyone should accept each other as equals. This advancement will honor Martin Luther King Jr. and further make his struggle worth it.

Today, the absence of acceptance causes social injustices such as racial and gender discrimination, poor education in certain communities, and homophobia. Men and women of all backgrounds should receive the same opportunities. Education and wealth should not depend on where you come from or the color of your skin. People should not be judged based on their sexual orientation. It all comes down to society needing to accept that everyone is worthy of the same treatment. Hate gets you nowhere. I believe that acceptance is the “sunlit path” that Dr. King was referring to.

In just 17 minutes, Dr. King discussed the vast issue of segregation, his dreams for future generations, and made himself heard. I want our nation to reach a level of greatness that he would be proud of. When I think of Martin Luther King Jr., I think of the influence of words and

the ability to inspire change. This is why his "I Have A Dream" speech will stay relevant. Although Dr. King is no longer alive, his legacy remains timeless.