

Elijah Dickey

Sherman School

8th Grade

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr had a dream – that all people would treat one another as brothers and sisters. His words were extremely powerful and effective. These words will always be remembered in history as one of the greatest speeches ever given. As a person of color, Dr. King experienced mistreatment and pain, and he wanted to change that. He stood up for the African American community by providing a vision of a better world. His powerful words opened the eyes of many on how blind people were to the effects of racism. Dr. King was tired of the mass oppression upon his community. This led him to become a great leader of the Civil Rights Movement where Americans of all backgrounds would stand up for the future of their children. His words inspire me to be a better person, especially after learning that the leader of my own community, the late Archbishop Iakovos marched with Dr. King during the Civil Rights movement in places like Selma, Alabama. This is why I have always been inspired to be inclusive of others, and to stand up for them, even when it might not be the most popular thing to do. Dr. King, and those who he inspired from my own Greek American community reminds me that the hatred and evil that exist will have its greatest impact when good men sit back and do nothing.

We find ourselves in a world of oppression and violence still today. Sixty years later, we should ask ourselves: What have we done to live up to his vision? Do we rely on the labels of race to judge each other's character? Do we continue to respect the path that he advocated for? Still people are unaware of the struggle, the pain, and the suffering in today's society. Still they choose to not act upon these injustices.