

MLK Speech

Martin Luther King **loved** his people. He was a Baptist minister and the son of a courageous Baptist minister. He took seriously his role of Pastor to his Flock: To lead, to protect, to nourish his flock.

But Martin Luther King was above all a man of ALL people. As with other great spiritual leaders such as Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Pope Francis, and Gandhi, he cared about and spoke to all the people on earth. He studied and applied Gandhi's principles of nonviolence. He also followed Gandhi's strategy of making one's enemies be what they say they are. If you say you are a nation that stands for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" and "liberty and justice for ALL," then you must pass laws and enforce laws that do just that.

King well knew he would sooner or later pay for his courage with his life, but it was what he was called to do. He stood on the shoulders of so many who fought before him: Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, W.E.B. Dubois, Harriet Tubman, and the millions of those who remain nameless. He was nourished by those who stood by him, and he inspired millions who have followed him. It is up to us to continue Martin Luther King's fight for freedom, dignity, fairness, and justice.