

In this labyrinthine world of right and wrong, good and bad, rich and poor, males and females, and blacks and whites, it may be difficult to take the right turn. We all need someone to help guide us. In most cases, it is a friend who helps and motivates, but if that friend does not support us, then it can be painful to both the mind and heart.

All people naturally turn towards their friends when they are in need. Though at times, an enemy can be less harmful than a friend. An enemy's crude behavior can be what cushions you when you fall because you were expecting it. When an enemy walks by, nobody thinks something pleasant will happen or maybe just for one day, their enemy will be kind to them.

On the other hand, when those whom we expect to have our backs, stay silent, that silence stays embedded in our memories. Receiving silence and lack of support from a friend can cut us more deeply than receiving harsh words from an enemy. We trust that our friends will support and encourage us or give us a helping hand when we are in need and when that does not happen, it can sincerely hurt a person. Overall, if an enemy verbally attacks you, it will not hurt you as much because the enemy does it often and therefore, does not come as a surprise, however, a friend's mere silence can affect you immensely because it is not expected.

The world has changed drastically since the mid-1950s when Martin Luther King was at his height. The Baptist Minister and social activist could have been talking about himself when he addressed this quote. "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends". If Dr. King would not have decided to fight for civil rights, then we would all most likely be in an entirely different place right now. Martin Luther King Jr. chose to act instead of letting fear scare him into silence. That choice changed the world that we live in today. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white person. Thus, the Montgomery Bus Boycott began, about 40,000 people or 90% of the African American population took part in the boycott. On June 5, 1956, after 381 days of boycotting, the federal government ruled that any law requiring racially segregated seating on buses violated the 14th Amendment. If Rosa Parks had followed the law then the world would be an immensely different place today. If Rosa Parks had complied with the white person's wishes, we may have still been a highly segregated country and not changed at all. As you can see, the silence of one person could affect the world.

Because of that same silence, bullying and suicide rates have tremendously increased. If people were to break the silence, the bullying and suicide rates would decrease. Bullying is the third most common cause of death in young people and bullying victims are 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than people who have not witnessed bullying, and half of the suicides among people have something to do with bullying. One hundred sixty thousand kids stay home each day as an effect of bullying. Nearly 30% of students are either bullies or victims of bullying. If one person had avoided the silence, then countless deaths could have been prevented.

Dr. King was a powerful and influential figure who spoke out about social injustice, racial discrimination, and civil rights instead of staying silent in a time of need. If it were not for Dr. King speaking out, then all people would not be able to bask in the warm, rays of unity and equality for people of all races, religions, and ethnic compositions. All people, good and bad, rich and poor, males and females, and blacks and whites can be betrayed. As our last dying breath is passing, we will not remember the negative but expected comments given to us by our enemies, but the heart-breaking betrayal given by our friends.