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In Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

This coming Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. I have included the following quote to share with you from his pen. It was written while he was incarcerated in a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama on April 16, 1963. I encourage you to read the whole letter he wrote. It is filled with a reasonable passionate plea for injustice to be addressed and for the church to awaken to the cries of the oppressed. Following is one paragraph of many contained in the long letter.

There was a time when the church was very powerful in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the likes and dislikes of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society. Whenever the early Christians entered a town, the people in power became disturbed and immediately sought to convict the Christians for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators." But the Christians pressed on, in the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven," called to obey God rather than man. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated." By their effort and example they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contests.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
April 16, 1963
From the Birmingham Jail

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