



Rosa Parks

By Constance Mabry

Day 13
March 8, 2023

Read Matthew 9:9 ESV

“As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.”

Critical Race Facts!

Black Southerners who survived the lynching era remained subject to the established legal system of racial apartheid known as Jim Crow. As organized resistance to this racial cast system began to swell in the early 1950's Black demonstrators were met with violent opposition from white police officers and community members. Black activists protesting racial segregation and disenfranchisement through boycotts, sit-ins, voter registration drives, and mass marches consistently faced physical attacks, riots, and bombings from whites.

Today's Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the opportunity to rest, relax and provide self-care. Help us to know when to stand, and what caused you have called us to stand for. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks was an African American Civil Rights Activist who set off one of the most famous actions of the Civil Rights movement when she refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. That act of protest triggered the famous Montgomery Bus Boycott. At that time, blacks who wanted to ride a city bus were required to board, pay the fare, and then exit and re-enter the bus by the rear door. Bus drivers often pulled away before the riders could re-board. If all seats in the white section were taken, blacks were required to move so white people could have their seats. After Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, she was arrested and jailed.

Rosa Parks married Raymond Parks, who encouraged her to get a high school diploma, despite her color. Rosa and Raymond Parks lived under the Jim Crow laws in Montgomery, Alabama. Jim Crow laws ensured segregation laws were enforced in the South, so they faced discrimination and segregation. Since Rosa Parks was under such rules, she became active in the black community by participating in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rosa Parks was called “the mother of the civil rights movement.”

I am Rosa Parks. I lived in the same era. I used public transportation and would have to go to the back of the bus to be seated. However, I entered the bus from the front, paid and walked down the aisle to the back. I experienced racism, segregation, harassment, and fear. I walked miles to school. I would never have made it without God on my side. I, like Rosa Parks, will fight to the bitter end for equality.

Questions to Ponder

Name a time when someone expected you to change your position or behavior and you refused. Were you justified? What was the result of your refusal to change? What did you learn from that experience? What could others learn from that experience?

