



Montgomery Bus Boycott

by Dr. Kelvin E. Turner

Day 38
April 6, 2023

Read Hebrews 11:1-23

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Critical Race Facts:

Racial Segregation often meant the total exclusion of Black people from public facilities, institutions, and opportunities.

Over the century that the racial caste system reigned, perceived violations of the racial order were met with brutal violence targeted at Black Americans – and lynching was the weapon of choice.

Lynching in the South became increasingly and exclusively a matter of white mobs murdering African Americans, a routine and systemic effort to subjugate the African American minority.

Prayer for Today:

Lord, thank You for giving us a reason to stand instead of sitting; for a reason to speak instead of remaining silent; for a reason to challenge the status and structures that keep us from experiencing the total freedom that you give. In Jesus Name, **amen.**

The other day I decided to take a ride on the city bus. I had not done so since my kids were little, and my wife and I were trying to teach them the way home via public transportation. I decided to ride the bus in preparation of this devotional submission.

December 1, 1955 started out as a normal day, yet it would end as one of the central and foundational days of civil rights and human history. From one refusal to give up a seat on the bus, there comes one of the most empowering decisions that a seamstress, a people, a city, or a nation can make.

In refusing to leave her seat, the seamstress tailored the greatest pattern of success for the Civil Rights Movement. From the small city in Montgomery, Alabama emerged a movement that inspired dignity into the human psyche of persons of color in Alabama and throughout the entire nation.

Of the many admirable things associated with the Montgomery Boycott, the one that sticks out the most is how those of the movement overcame every obstacle placed before them. The prophet Jeremiah reminded us that “no weapon formed against you shall prosper.” Nowhere was this more evident than in the Montgomery Boycott.

- A white homeowner heard about the secret plan to boycott, and leaked it to the newspaper. The newspaper exposed the plan and consequently informed and inspired more Blacks to participate in the boycott.
- Insurance Companies cancelled the policies of insurers who participated in the boycott. This led to congregations across the country sending money and shoes to support the effort.
- The city decided to jail clergy and other leaders of the movement which led to the city jails being overwhelmed.

The boycott lasted 381 days, and the prophetic words of Dr. King have become a reality. He urged participants of the “march to sacrifice now to improve the situation of colored people later down the road.”

Because of their sacrifice, in 1955, we now have reliable and affordable transportation available to communities serving minorities and vulnerable populations. Because of their sacrifice we have improved and affordable transportation connectivity to work, schools, groceries, hospitals, and houses of worship. Additionally, their sacrifice has provided career opportunities and positions to include: transit administrators, transportation operators, maintenance engineers, and housing authority directors. In the spirit of Dr. King's words, because they sacrificed then, we have come much farther down the road of justice and equality.

