Charlton Kilpatrick 11/22/10

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Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez maintain multiple similarities and some differences as well. Among the most evident is the fact that they were both Civil Rights leaders. Specifically speaking, Martin Luther King was a Civil Rights leader trying to create equality amongst everyday life in society. Cesar Chavez wanted peace among workers and racial ethnicity. They both took large risks in order keep their causes alive and strong. From boycotts to food strikes they fought for equality till their bones became brittle.

Martin Luther King Jr., The one man who with the assistance of several people from all races, triumphed over racial discrimination. This man was born in Atlanta Georgia in 1968 on the 15th of January. He was born to Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. He was the final heir to the long line of pastors that all served under the same family name at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He stayed at that church until his father passed away, whereas he moved to Alabama. There, he became the pastor of a newer church under the title:  Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. He began to develop his strengths in fighting for civil rights. He learned of an Organization that aimed for the exact same goal as him under the name: NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). His ambitions propelled him into a dominate position within the organization, and it lead him to becoming the leader of both the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. During his work with the NAACP, he boycotted for equal rights on many buses to attempt to get all races equal riding rights for all forms of public transportation. These actions eventually lead to its approval in a supreme court but also resulted in Dr. King’s arrest. Time began to fly along and all of the work that Dr. King had accumulated began to pay off and got him many followers who all shared his motive. He had many more speeches in locations in which civil inequality was progressed. Through those speeches he focused on the use of emphasizing Gandhi’s Philosophy which served as a sort of key to the minds of the ignorant within the crowds of bystanders. In the mist of all of this work, he was still greeted with the unwelcoming treatment of the people who disliked Dr. King and ended up arrested at least 20 more times, hit with bricks, rocks, booed at, called racist names like nigger, and even death threats. The most outlandish remark of hatred against Dr. King was when those that disliked took measures to bomb his home. But the Dr. King continuously stayed focused and eventually lead his most memorable speech with the 250,000 people that participated in the march for peace in Washington D.C., His “ I have a dream Speech”. This speech served as the pinnacle of acceptance of all colors in American society, and finally given everyone civil rights.

Just as we had Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. work to better our society, we had Cesar Chavez, benefit both obtaining Civil Rights, as well as work to better our workplaces. Cesar Chavez was born in Yuma, Arizona in 1927. He lived a life full of multiple pit stops and road blocks that got in the way of natural human life progression but despite the problems and issues he still found a way to make every wrong in his life a right and touch others lives as well. During his early ages, his parents lost the farm in Yuma due to the rapidly increasing effects of the great depression so they had to move away. His parents became immigrant farm workers for others while Cesar himself was exposed to and had to experience the hardships and injustices of working a farmer’s work life. After roaming around to over 30 schools, Cesar only took his scholastic education to a certain extent, and then simply took his farm work as a full time job. But because of this, he developed a thirst for excessive amounts of education so he began learn more on the field. After working over 6 years in the fields he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the aftermath war of World War II. Once the aftermath was over, he returned to the U.S. to marry a woman he met in central California under the name Helen Fabela. He and she had eight children and they over time acquired a whooping number of thirty one grandchildren. Cesar, unsatisfied with the conditions farmer work life, joined the CSO (Community Service Organization) which was a Latin civil rights group. While in that group, he coordinated voter registration drives and conducted campaigns against racial and economic discrimination. As seemly beneficial as it seemed, He wasn’t satisfied with just CSO. He wanted to primarily assist those in Labor related jobs. SO, he left CSO to go and found the NFWA also known as the National Farm Workers Association which later became the United Farm Workers of America. This group began to support farm workers with respect, dignity, fair wages, and good medical benefits. He fasted for his organization to protest the abuse of the workers and to send a message out organizations saying that if treatment isn’t improved, then we won’t buy your products. This eventually passed and Cesar Chavez’s Dream came true and is now emphasized across the Americas, not just for Latin farm workers, but all.

With the presented information, one can truly see that Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez are two very similar individuals. They both fought for a cause specifically speaking civil rights, they both worked to improve the society; they both worked as religious leaders. They both boycotted for change, had motivational speeches to build moral, and most important, they made a large impact on society.