
A Special Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Message from Mark Roosa



Human Resources



Throughout his life, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that education is far more than the accumulation of facts. One of my favorite King quotes reads: “Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” King believed that true education cultivates critical thinking, moral clarity, and a commitment to justice. For King, an educated person is not merely informed, but empowered to discern truth, challenge injustice, and contribute meaningfully to the common good.

King also championed the virtue of hard work. He urged individuals to pursue excellence in every task, no matter how humble, arguing that diligent effort reflects both personal dignity and civic responsibility. Through perseverance and integrity, he believed people could rise up and help build a more just and compassionate society.

Faith, for King, was the sustaining force that anchored one’s purpose. He believed and taught that faith nurtures hope, strengthens resolve, and inspires service to others. By grounding one’s efforts in faith, he believed each person could become a constructive and loving presence in the world.

These principles—education, hard work, and faith—formed the foundation of King’s vision for a useful and purposeful life. They remind us that greatness is achieved through disciplined minds, dedicated labor, and steadfast trust in God’s guiding hand.

As the New Testament affirms: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23).

As a community of faith, may we strive ceaselessly, as King did, to live by this timeless, guiding principle.

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