



The Bus of Justice -The Faith of Rosa Parks

Edited from various news sources with comments added by

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Rosa Parks is an American hero. Not for blacks alone. Nor for any single group. Not at all. The life and legacy of Rosa Parks, is not a liberal or conservative story, nor a Democratic or Republican one, nor for those predominantly from either the political left or the political right. Hers is a life of human triumph over injustice and one of full victory over the inbred illness of human prejudice that most often marches without rhyme or reason.

It is the victorious sprinkling of biblical holiness over the darkest and dirtiest chapter of our nation's history. To fully grasp and comprehend the towering luminous figure of Mrs. Rosa Parks, one must divest themselves of any political leaning, childhood prejudices, or previously held manmade definitions of justice. At its core, the life of Rosa Parks is the triumph of an individual empowered by YHWH to overcome the sickness of the human soul that still sadly fills the earth, as it did in the days of Noah.

Rabbi Moshe Y. Koniuchowsky 11-8-05

Brief History

Ivrim 11:31-35-Rosa Parks died Monday, Oct. 24, 2005, at home in Detroit. She was 92. Rosa Parks, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor that can be given to a civilian. Celebrated in three cities, Alabama, Washington and Detroit. **Rosa Parks is the first woman in American history to lie in honor in rotunda of capital of the United States. Upon her passing, her body lay in state in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol for the public to pay**

their respects, an honor normally reserved for presidents and Supreme Court justices. It was the first time a woman had ever lain in honor beneath the rotunda of the United States Capitol, and it was all the more impressive because Parks never held high government office. Yet she may have done more to change America than many of the 30 others, all men, who had been so honored on 28 occasions before her. Before she could even be laid to rest, a bill had been introduced in both houses of Congress to erect a monument to her in the Capitol's Statuary Hall. Parks received the award because nearly half a century ago in 1955, she changed the course of American history when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery Alabama. Courage in the face of oppression; resistance in the face of injustice. That is the enduring legacy of Rosa Parks, whose defiance on a racially segregated Montgomery, Ala., bus lit the flame of the modern civil rights movement and inspired freedom movements from South Africa to Poland. **Parks was honored in songs, books and plays. She had streets, museums and schools named for her, assuring that her contributions and place in human history will echo for generations.** She was cited by presidents and foreign nations, testimonials to the kind of worldwide fame she could never have envisioned when she refused to move to another seat for a white passenger on Dec. 1, 1955.

Under the segregation laws in force in Alabama at the time, the first four rows of a metropolitan bus were reserved for whites and the last 10 for blacks. The rows in the middle can be used by blacks but must be vacated by them if a white wants a seat. Some drivers also make blacks pay for a ticket at the front of the bus then get off and reboard at the back. During the year she was ejected from a Montgomery public bus after a dispute with the driver, James F. Blake. Parks had refused to enter at the back of the bus because it was already full. On 1 December 1955, on a bus trip home from her work as a seamstress at the Montgomery Fair department store, Parks refuses to surrender her seat to a white man. **Coincidentally the driver of the bus is James F. Blake, the same driver who had ordered her off a bus in 1943.** "I could not see how standing up was going to 'make it light' for me," Parks later writes in the autobiography, 'Rosa Parks: My Story'. "The more we gave in and complied, the worse they treated us. Parks wasn't the first black person to refuse to move to the back of the bus. Earlier that year, a woman had been carried off the bus clawing and kicking. Another woman had used profanity during her arrest. But the local NAACP declined to rally behind these women. But Park's behavior throughout her arrest was above reproach. Because of this, and because of her well-known exemplary character, Alabama

civil-rights leaders thought Park's arrest signaled the right time to act. They launched the famous yearlong Montgomery bus boycott, and the rest is history. On November 13 1956 the Supreme Court found that Alabama's bus segregation laws are unconstitutional. **The boycott ends on 20 December. Parks subsequently becomes known as the "mother" of the civil rights movement.** In 1996, Parks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Three years later, in June 1999, Parks received the Congressional Gold Medal before a crowd at the U.S. Capitol. Five months later, in November, Parks was presented with the actual medallion for the Congressional Gold Medal at a star-studded celebration at Detroit's Orchestra Hall. Vice President Al Gore presented the medal at the sold-out tribute. In 1998, Parks received the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's first International Freedom Conductor Award during ceremonies in Cincinnati. Parks' legacy also reaches to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, which she founded to make young people more aware of civil rights history.

Her True Strength

Like Many Who Changed History, Rosa Parks Was a Bible Believer. Still, we cling to the fairy tale of the tired little old lady, rather than the engaged Christian activist with deep roots in her church and in the NAACP. Why? Some of us want to believe that change comes easier than it really does. There were no doubt many boring meetings and organizational efforts prior to that fateful day on a bus--and these laid the groundwork for what came from it. When the time came, people were organized and developed a very specific agenda: the legal challenge and the Bus Boycott. **Rosa Parks was not just a tired and dignified old lady, she was a progressive Christian activist whose faith led her to move mountains.** When Rosa Parks, the beloved mother of the civil rights movement, died this week universal praise and honor was bestowed on her. **She was a woman Time magazine ranked as one of the 100 Most Influential of the 20th Century.** Unfortunately, we still heard some of the same myths that serve to at once to belittle her achievement and to misinform those who would follow her path as a Christian peacemaker. I heard at least three TV tributes that used the fairy tale that she was just a tired little old lady who didn't want to stand up on that fateful day in Montgomery when she sparked

the civil rights movement. Ms. Parks herself hated this version of her story, commenting, "The only tired I was, was tired of giving in. I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move. Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it." As the poet Rita Dove writes in the Time tribute, "Parks was 42 years old when she refused to give up her seat. She has insisted that her feet were not aching; she was, by her own testimony, no more tired than usual. And she did not plan her fateful act: "I did not get on the bus to get arrested," she has said. "I got on the bus to go home." **The real story of Rosa Parks is far more interesting and perhaps more threatening to the status quo and the powers that be: she was a progressive Christian Activist.** This was true both before and after she led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. According to historian Douglas Brinkley, by "...1955 she was already a veteran civil rights activist, married to a charter member of the NAACP's Montgomery chapter, and a devout member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the many black churches whose congregants organized and fought to desegregate the South."

Most people know the story of the seamstress who helped ignite the civil-rights movement, but many people don't know that Rosa Parks is a devout Christian, and that it was her faith that gave her the strength to do what she did that day in 1955. In her book, entitled "Quiet Strength," Parks says her belief in God developed early in life. "Every day before supper and before we went to services on Sundays," Parks says, "my grandmother would read the Bible to me, and my grandfather would pray. We even had devotions before going to pick cotton in the fields. Prayer and the Bible," she recalls, "became a part of my everyday thoughts and beliefs. I learned to put my trust in God and to seek Him as my strength." But Parks was convinced that to do so would be wrong--and she refused to get up. "Since I have always been a strong believer in God," she says, "I knew that He was with me, and only He could get me through that next step." The story of Rosa Parks is a reminder of what a central role Christian faith has played in the civil-rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a Christian minister who turned the other cheek in the face of violence. And Jackie Robinson's Christian faith was what led Branch Rickey--another devout Christian--to choose him as the man to break the color barrier in baseball. When

you hear that familiar refrain that Christians are bigots, remind your taunters who was behind the great civil-rights advances of this generation: Christians. And when your friends and children read about the award Rosa Parks just received, make sure they know about the unimpeachable Source of her quiet strength. Her brave, dignified example just might encourage them to seek out that same Source for themselves. "Since I have always been a strong believer in God," she says, "I knew that He was with me, and only He could get me through that next step." "She was a powerful witness to all of us who believe that one person can make a difference and she will forever be remembered for her quiet resolve," The Source behind her bold act that changed the course of American history was revealed in her book *Quiet Strength*. It was her belief in God that emboldened her to do what she did in the bus.

Rosa later wrote, "I felt the presence of God on the bus and heard His quiet voice as I sat there waiting for the police to take me to the station. There were people on the bus that knew me, but no one said a word to help or encourage me. I was lonely, but I was at peace. The voice of God told me that He was at my side." Rosa was raised as a devout Christian. She grew up attending a church where her uncle served as a preacher. Prayer and the Bible became a part of my everyday thoughts and beliefs. I learned to put my trust in God and to seek Him as my strength." As I sat in that jail cell, behind bars, I felt as if the world had forgotten me. But I felt God's presence with me in the jail cell."

Activism Against American Terrorists

Rosa's grandfather Edwards concentrated on protecting his family from white predators. Lynchings of blacks had become commonplace thanks to the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, a southern terrorist movement first spawned after the Civil War and reorganized nearly half a century later on Thanksgiving Day 1915 at Georgia's Stone Mountain. There, under an American flag and the glow of a burning cross, sixteen racists, inspired by their misinterpretation of D. W. Griffith's new film *Birth of a Nation*, pledged themselves to the cause of "white supremacy." They proved their dedication by performing ridiculous cultish rituals while vowing all too

sincerely to rid American society of blacks, Jews, Catholics, and other "undesirables." It is heartbreaking to think of any child having youth's innocence shattered by the prospect of torture and death at the hands of jackbooted Nazis or hooded Klansmen. Yet it was from that prospect that young Rosa McCauley learned it wasn't enough to just "turn a cheek" in Christian submission when one's very life was at stake. So every night, as her grandfather slept in a rocking chair by the fireplace with his shotgun in his lap, Rosa curled up on the floor beside him, ready to spring to the defense of her home. "I remember thinking that whatever happened, I wanted to see it," Parks explained decades later. "I wanted to see him shoot that gun."

Her Christian faith only made her feel sorry for the white tormentors who called her "nigger" or threw rocks at her as she walked to school. Reading Psalms 23 and 27 early on had given Rosa McCauley the strength to love her enemy. "Before Rosa Parks was a civil rights catalyst, she was a devoted Christian who memorized Scripture and taught Sunday School. In her own words, it was her faith that sustained her and mattered most throughout her life." History goes on to tell us that the summer before this wonderful incident that changed the world, she'd actually gone to classes to learn about civil disobedience. She carried a Christian Worldview and believed that her actions would be empowered by the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit would convict the conscience of America if she took the right stand, at the right time. Well, December 1st, 1955, she decided that day was the day. She launched something, but was humble enough, though, to turn the leadership over to a young minister, Martin Luther King, Jr. He was 26 years old, just had been anointed (if you will) to be Pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. **And she was able to take a visible role, this quiet humble-spirited woman, and then also allow true leaders to gather around her and propel that movement. Her true courage, was not just in standing up that day, or let's say in sitting down that day. Her true courage was over the next 380 some days, with death threats—30 or 40 a day, given to both her and Dr. King—and knowing these people were obviously capable of hurting. She had heard of men and women lynched—and was afraid of that as a child—and she knew that the terrorist kind of threats were not just make-believe, "She saw her participation in the struggle for justice as integral to her being a**

disciple of Jesus," said Peter Gathje, a professor at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. "Because she recognized a law higher than human law, she knew that breaking an unjust human law was perfectly consistent with her Christian faith." they had real teeth behind them. One of her favorite Bible passages was the 23rd Psalm. "During my school days, the 23rd Psalm was part of our devotions, when we had devotions in school," Parks, an African Methodist Episcopal church member and former seamstress, commented in the mid-1990s. "And at church it was one of the favorite psalms that we enjoyed reading and thinking about. "During the time of our boycott, we did much praying and we had mass meetings at the various churches, where people would come in and testify and relate their experiences," she continued. "It was very helpful that we had the churches and could gather strength from one another and encourage each other to continue the struggle throughout that long year of boycotting the buses. "I look back on those days and remember the Spirit within us and our faith and hope that things would be better, and I still have that faith," Parks said. "Robert Anderson, immediate past president of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, said of Parks' 1955 arrest, "It was the bus ride that ended up changing history.... From that small act of defiance came a big act of deliverance, which would lead to the Supreme Court case in which they ruled segregation in public transportation to be illegal and unconstitutional. "That began to affect other things," said Anderson, pastor of the Baltimore-area Colonial Baptist Church in Randallstown and a member of the SBC Executive Committee. "If it's wrong there, on the bus, then it's wrong in schools, it's wrong in restaurants, it's wrong in other places. "Parks' stance "not only helped blacks throughout the country but also helped everybody," Anderson said. "If one person is not receiving justice and is not treated fairly, and it's supported by the law, then that destroys all levels of justice." Anderson said he hopes "that the attention given to Sister Rosa Parks in honor of what she has done and how God has used her in the civil rights efforts in the United States of America might be one of those signposts to remind us that racial reconciliation is still an important function. We're not quite there yet in all of our racial acceptance of one another and working together and ministering together -- and being on mission together." **"She was a heroine in our midst—one who taught our nation about courage and determination," said a statement from the National Council of**

Churches. It is unfortunate that few in this generation who honor Rosa Parks know about the spiritual dimension of her long life, because it was Christ who was the guiding light of her years on this earth." As a child," she wrote in 1994, "I learned from the Bible to trust in God and not be afraid. I felt the Lord would give me the strength to endure whatever I had to face." Rosa Parks has passed into history. More important, she would have told you, her spirit has passed into eternity with Jesus Christ. Douglas Brinkley opens his biography of Rosa Parks, the matriarch of the civil rights movement who died October 24 at age 92, with a moving account of how her life was rooted in her Christian faith. "I remember finding such comfort and peace while reading the Bible," he quoted Parks as saying. "Its teaching became a way of life and helped me in dealing with my day-to-day problems."

We cannot take these blessings for granted. We must share these gifts from God. Whether we are thirteen or eighty-three, we must show the world that we are able to correct our mistakes – including homelessness, poor race relations, and violence -- and move forward to a better society. I know that we can. This nation has always overcome the obstacles it has faced. — Rosa Parks

I have learned that in order to bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try. Each and every one of us can make a difference. — Rosa Parks

Comments From World leaders

President George W. Bush-Today America also honors the memory of one of the most inspiring women of the 20th century, Rosa Parks. Fifty years ago, in Montgomery, Alabama, this humble seamstress stood up to injustice by refusing a bus driver's order that she give up her seat for a white man. Her show of defiance was an act of personal courage that moved millions, including a young preacher named Martin Luther King. Rosa Parks' example helped touch off the civil rights movement and transformed America for the better. She will always have a special place in American history, and our nation thinks of Rosa Parks and her loved ones today.

Dr Martin Luther King Jr.- "Mrs. Parks' arrest was the precipitating factor rather than the course of the protest," Martin Luther King Jr. later writes in his 1958 book 'Stride Toward

Freedom'. "The cause lay deep in the record of similar injustices. ... **Actually no one can understand the action of Mrs. Parks unless he realizes that eventually the cup of endurance runs over, and the human personality cries out, 'I can take it no longer. "She was planted there by her personal sense of dignity and self-respect. She was anchored to that seat by the accumulated indignities of days gone and the boundless aspirations of generations yet unborn.**

Douglas Brinkley -Her name is a code word against totalitarian governments," There are really three names that have really resonated in the shanty towns of Third World countries around the world. They are Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Bob Marley. They are more loved by poor people than any other historical figures in recent memory. Parks inspired freedom seekers of all backgrounds, including Japanese-Americans who sought reparations for their internment in camps in the United States during World War II.

Nelson Mandela-When former South African President Nelson Mandela visited Detroit in 1990, the elder statesman was overcome with emotion as he greeted Parks. **"Tears filled his eyes as he walked up to the small, old woman with her hair in two silver braids crossed atop her head," wrote Brinkley in the Parks biography. "And, in a low, melodious tone, Mandela began to chant 'Ro-sa, Ro-sa Parks. Ro-sa Parks.'" Mandela later said that Parks was his inspiration while he was jailed and her example inspired South African freedom fighters. Mandela called Parks "the David who challenged Goliath" in a 1993 speech at the NAACP convention in Indianapolis.**

Senator Edward Kennedy-called Parks "a true American hero."

Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.- "I truly believe that there's a little bit of Rosa Parks in all Americans who have the courage to say enough is enough and stand up for what they believe in. She did such a small thing, but it was so courageous for her as a humble person to do.

Jesse Jackson- "She sat down in order that we might stand up, and the walls of segregation came down," "Rosa was a true giant of the civil rights movement,"

Rev. Al Sharpton- "I think Rosa Parks was truly a historic figure who singularly on December 1, 1955, tore down the walls of American segregation and apartheid. One of the highlights of my life was meeting and getting to know her ... a gentle woman whose single act changed the most powerful nation in the world."

Rep. John Lewis- D-Ga. "She must be looked upon as not just the mother of the modern civil rights movement; she must be looked upon as one of the mothers of the New America, of the New South."

Oprah Winfrey- said, "I would not be standing here today, nor standing where I stand every day, had she not chosen to sit down. I know that."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger- In one single day, Rosa Parks made the world face the cause of equality, civil rights and justice. No words can adequately describe the courage of her actions, the nobility, of her character or the impact she had on an entire nation."

U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert- "I fondly remember presenting her with the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor in June of 1999 in the United States Capital Rotunda. At the age of 86, she stood to accept the medal and sometimes steadied herself on my arm. Rosa Parks said that her legacy of quiet strength was passing to the youth of this nation."

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.- "I remember her as an almost saint-like person. And I use that term with care. She was very humble, she was soft-spoken, but inside she had a determination that was quite fierce." I didn't just read or hear about her. The power you feel in this church is the power that she left when she walked on this earth and lived in Detroit for year after year. She worked in my office...this was a celebrity staffer if there ever was one. We got along well because she had that Mother Theresa-like aura about her that brought peace and harmony - I never heard her in an argument or heard her raise her voice or use angry tones or negative words about anybody. She didn't have it in her. "There are very few people who can say their actions and conduct changed the face of the nation, and Rosa Parks is one of those individuals."

Rev. Charles Adams - She sat there so that we might sit in higher seats. And because she sat where she sat, we are now sitting in the halls of Congress, sitting on the Supreme Court, sitting as presidents and CEO's of global corporations, heads of Ivey League schools, pastors of mega churches, secretaries of state, sitting at the table where cosmic decisions are made. Because she sat there, we are able to sit here.

Rev. Bernice King - (Martin Luther King's daughter speaking on behalf of her mother Coretta Scott King) Today, we mourn the lost of the mother of the movement. **A woman whose name will forever be etched in the hearts of freedom-loving people everywhere: Mrs. Rosa L Parks. And though we mourn the loss of this singular champion of racial justice, we also celebrate her home-going as a woman of unwavering faith who served God and humanity with unconditional love and devotion.**

President Bill Clinton - **Rosa Parks ignited the most significant social movement in modern American history to finish the work that spawned the Civil War and redeem the promise of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. For 50 more years, she moved beyond the bus continuing her work on that promise.** It was my honor to present her with a presidential medal of freedom and to join the leaders of congress in presenting her with a congressional gold medal. I remember it well while she sat with Hillary in the box of the first family of the State of the Union address of 1999 and how the entire Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike rose as one to recognize that she has made us all better people and a better country. When I first met Rosa Parks, I was reminded of what Abraham Lincoln said when he was introduced to Harriet Beacher Stow, the author of Uncle Tom's cabin. He said 'So this is the little lady who started the great war.' **This time Rosa's war was fought by Martin Luther King's rules: civil disobedience, peaceful resistance -- but a war nonetheless, for one America, in which the law of the land means the same thing for everybody.** Rosa Parks as we saw again today was small in stature with delicate features, but the passing years did nothing to dim the light that danced in her eyes. **The kindness and strength you saw in her smile or the dignity of her voice, till the end she radiated that kind of grace and serenity that God specially gives to those that stand in the line of fire for freedom and touch even the hardest of hearts.** Now that our friend Rosa Parks has gone on to her just reward, now that she has gone home and left us behind let us never forget that in that

simple act and a lifetime of grace and dignity she showed us every single day what it means to be free. **She made us see and agree that everyone should be free. God bless you Rosa, God bless you.**

John Kerry- No one could ever forget meeting Rosa Parks --- anyone who had the privilege of doing so, met her extraordinary strength, grace and humility, and we were all impressed beyond words her conviction in taking on the army of power that was against her. Rosa Parks reminded many, **but she taught even more what the words "speaking truth to power" really mean. In an era when the words "patriot" and "courage" are thrown around too easily, this small woman armed with her belief in God and her sense of right and wrong stood up and gave meaning to the words courage, patriot. She loved the dream of our country more than she loved herself and worked to live it. In the struggle for civil rights, some were called to stand up and ... some were called to simply sit down ...on a bus to Montgomery.**

Comments From Religious Leaders

Gary Frost- Executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and a former second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said, when we face any obstacle, any discouragement, that faith is a strong attribute to have.” “Through the years, I’ve admired the gentle strength and the humble resolve of Sister Parks. **“She is much more than a symbol of nonviolent protest. She is the epitome of a peacemaker,”** said Frost, who played a pivotal role in the Southern Baptist Convention’s adoption of a racial reconciliation resolution in 1995.

Sid Smith- Retired director of the Florida Baptist Convention's African American ministries division said Parks was “a giant for civil rights who appeared on the scene at exactly the right time. **Her courageous defiance of Jim Crow tradition on a segregated Montgomery, Ala., bus in 1955 sparked the most successful movement for human rights in American history and launched the unparalleled career of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Smith recounted. “History rewarded her with the title: Mother of The Civil Rights Movement.**

Jay Wolf- Pastor of First Baptist Church in Montgomery who has been involved in an interracial pastors’ group for seven years, said **Parks was “motivated by her faith in Jesus Christ. She**

destroyed barriers and built bridges of reconciliation. Her Christian model is worthy of our emulation.” Toward that end, Wolf and other pastors in the “John 17” interracial group, reflecting Jesus’ prayer for unity in the Gospel of John’s 17th chapter, have organized “The ONE Movement,” to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the bus boycott.

Rick Lance, state missionary/executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, who described Parks as “a towering figure during the Civil Rights period of American history. She represents the sacrifice of seemingly ordinary people who did extraordinary deeds in the name of justice and liberty. Her simple act of courage became the spark, which lit the fire of the Civil Rights movement. Behind the iconic leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. stands the enormous contribution and influence of Rosa Parks. She never sought fame or recognition; nonetheless, her name is synonymous with all which is good in the quest for freedom and individual rights. People in Alabama and in the U.S., as well as individuals all around the world, join her family in mourning her passing.”

Bob Terry-editor of The Alabama Baptist newsjournal, who noted, “In the providence of God, He used an unassuming woman named Rosa Parks as the catalyst to force Alabamians and all the people of the South to face the negative side of our culture. It was her courage that caused the whole nation to reexamine and renew its commitment to the belief that all people are created equal. She became the symbol of strength and dignity standing against the evils of discrimination, privilege and entitlement. Her faith in God and the message of churches in the black community reminded us that God created all people in His image. **Her life caused Christians to face the gap between confession and practice.** Her experience changed culture and society in Alabama. We are better because of her.”

Mark Croston- current president of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., who said, “**God used Rosa Parks as a catalyst for justice. By sitting in silence, she fulfilled the Christian role of being the salt of the earth, and we are all indebted to her for her life and work.**”

Richard Land- president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission who was instrumental in the SBC's 1995 racial reconciliation resolution, said, "Rosa Parks was a great woman who was committed to uncovering wrong and doing right. She said her act of civil disobedience was simply a result of being tired of the unfair treatment of black Americans. Rosa Parks stated it was her faith in God that gave her the strength and courage to persevere in a culture that denied basic human rights to African Americans. Throughout her life, she demonstrated a quiet and dignified strength in standing for justice and equal rights for all Americans. "She will be forever remembered as a pioneer in the struggle for civil rights. Her efforts, combined with those of many other Americans, black and white, led to full citizenship for millions of African Americans and began a needed transformation of our nation.... **Mrs. Parks' resistance to the unfair treatment of black Americans did not begin in 1955; she was put off a city bus in 1943 because she boarded that bus through the front door, not the back door where blacks were supposed to enter the vehicle. I am grateful for her indomitable spirit in the struggle for freedom and justice and for her unflagging dedication in calling our nation to close out the ugly era of racial segregation and to heed the biblical truth expressly stated in our nation's Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal. All Americans owe Mrs. Parks and other civil rights pioneers a great debt for their courage, standing against the evils of segregation and making it possible for us to live in a society committed to racial reconciliation and justice."** Yes, she was exhausted that day. Yes, she chose not to give up her seat, knowing fully well that she might be arrested. But by her own admission, she would never have had the courage to remain seated had it not been for her unwavering faith in God. This is more than just an historical footnote, and it is not just a case of tangential nitpicking. She understood that her faith and her God were greater than the white man who wanted her to move to the back of the bus, greater than the Montgomery police, the mayor, Jim Crow, the whole structure of institutional racism and oppression.

Scriptural Basis For Rosa Parks Actions -Lessons Learned-

Power of Humility-Corintyah Alef/First Corinthians 1: 26-29- Mishle 3:34/Mishle 29:23-

She taught us the power of humility. YHWH resists the proud and gives grace and honor to the humble. When YHWH desires change, real lasting change for justice in the earth, He does it through those who love Him and do not desire greatness. Anyone could have done what Rosa Parks did, but no one else did! Bill Clinton said: "We must never forget about the power of ordinary people to stand in the fire for the cause of human dignity, and to touch the hearts of people who have almost turned to stone."

Power of Conviction-Romiyah/Romans 8:33-39 "Rosa Parks is someone who challenged society and

pushed the boundaries," because she knew that if YHWH was for her Jim Crow segregation could not stand against her. So she sat; all the while standing on that promise.

Power of Non-Violent Resistance-Mattiyahu/Matthew 5:39-45-The same power Yahshua used to die for our sins! Rosa Parks did not resort to violence and evil, but resisted injustice based on her great faith that YHWH was with her even if mans' laws were not.

Power of The Search For Equality-MaAseh Shlichim/Acts 17:25-26.She longed to be treated as a human according to the principle that all humanity is born of the same blood. Rosa remembered, "I was tired of seeing so many men treated as boys and not called by their proper names or titles. I was tired of seeing children and women mistreated and disrespected because of the color of their skin. I was tired of legally enforced racial segregation. I thought of the pain and the years of oppression and mistreatment that my people had suffered."

Power of A Sound Mind To Overcome Our Fears-Timtheous Bet/Second Timothy 1:7-9-

"Rosa Parks said, "Fear was the last thing I thought of that day. I put my trust in the Lord for guidance and help to endure whatever I had to face. I knew I was sitting in the right seat." YHWH rewarded her great faith-**Ivrim 11:6**. Rosa Parks' refusal to submit to an unjust law and give up her bus seat to a white man shows the power ordinary people have to effect

social change. YHWH has not given believers a spirit of fear. **We learn that fear can always fall in the face of the pursuit of justice.**

Power of One-Yeshayahu/Isaiah 51:2-As believers we learned from her life the power of **ONE. ONE SINGLE** life submitted to Yahshua that will not tolerate hate, violence evil and **injustice is a powerful tool in the hands of YHWH. The Power of The Majority of One-** Anyone with Yahshua is not considered a minority. You don't need a title money or even position to change the nation the community the family and ultimate history. You just need Yahshua and you. A majority even for a minority.

Power of Reformation-Mikah/Micah 6:8-We see through her struggle for equality YHWH's desire for all His people and all mankind to seek justice, mercy and walk humbly with each other and YHWH. At her memorial service as in her life, she was a unifier. We see that the call for the unity of humanity in her struggle for equality was the courage of one determined woman that initiated the reforms.

Power of A Kadosh Vision-Mishle/Proverbs 29: 18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that guards the Torah, happy is he. Rosa Parks taught us the power of vision for a nation. Without a vision people perish into destruction and abuse. She demonstrated the power of a nation that has a vision of equality and justice for all its citizens. She used YHWH's Torah of moral decency to prevail against man's laws. She well taught us the concept of Yovel/Jubilee and a nation that can correct itself from oppression by declaring the Torah principle of Jubilee throughout the land; even the Southland!

The Power of Resurrection-Ivrim/Hebrews 11:35-She received back to life her children that were dead to the promises of the U.S. constitution. Her stand for justice reversed the curse of our nation. The curse of perpetual slavery. By refusing to give up her seat in her struggle for dignity, she proclaimed the faith in the truth that all YHWH's children of all colors, will one day stand in the resurrection of the redeemed and forgiven.

The Power of Forgiveness-Mattiyahu/Matthew 6:14-15-Rosa Parks taught America the blessing and favor on those willing to walk in forgiveness and undefilement, by refusing the easy road of bitterness and hatred.

The Power of Faith-Yochanan Moshe/Mark 11:23-26- Showed us that one person's faith combined with forgiveness, can move mountains and nations.

The Power of Divine Empowerment-Lukas/Luke 21:25 -When we seek justice and righteousness as an individual, Yahshua gives us wisdom and an unmovable spirit against which no human hatred can resist. **Joshua 1:5**- Rosa showed us that HE empowers all believers regardless of station, status or skin color. She showed us the true love of the Father for all His children.

The Power of Imparted Responsibility-Yaakov 1:22-Rosa taught us that if you know the truth you are expected to ACT ON IT. Seek opportunities and moments to become DOERS of the Word and not hearers only! Biblical activism! To whom much is given, much is required! Seek "Rosa Parks moments." Brief moments in time, but those that can have lasting benefits.

The Power of Truth-Ephysiyah-4: 2, 4:15-Rosa Parks taught us what it meant to speak truth in love! Truth is most effective and piercing when the hearts are the coldest and darkness is most prevalent!

The Power of Salt-Mattiyahu/Matthew 5:9-12-Rosa Parks taught us that true faith ends hate and is wrought by making shalom with those who oppress. She showed us how to establish lasting shalom among all men and the meaning of being salt in this sick earth

The Power of Visualizing Your Promised Inheritance-Ephsiyah/Ephesians 2:6-7-She showed us how to respond in the face of injustice. She saw Yahshua's seat of honor **seated** in the heavenlies and saw that as her inheritance as well. She did not lose sight of her reward!