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**Salma and The Letter from Birmingham Jail**

The main topic of Salma and Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter from Birmingham Jail has to do with racism and segregation. Both the reading and the film discuss instances of how Dr. King and his followers were fighting to gain their rights of equality by performing acts of peaceful protest to try and take down segregation in America. King came to Birmingham peacefully, trying to fight the injustice that was taking place; however, the white men were not willing to negotiate with Dr. King and eventually him and his men were taken down and were sent to jail unjustly. Similar instances happened in the film Salma.

The film Salma takes a focus on the African American communities right to fairly vote. Voting for African Americans were technically legal at the time; however, they were treated unfairly during the voting registration booths and a majority were not allowed to register. Dr. King knew this was a huge problem and he needed to act as quickly as possible to solve this problem. With the African American community not being able to vote, the same officials would remain in office and continue to treat the African American community unfairly. Dr. King would constantly stay in contact with the President Johnson trying to convince him to do something about this problem; however, President Johnson could not see the big picture. He told Dr. King things will get done but there are bigger priorities at the time that needed to get addressed. As we discussed in class President Johnson was not the type of person you would want to get in arguments with; however, Dr. King knew this issue needed to be addressed immediately so the racist governing officials can get out of office. Completing this task would be a huge step forward in the fight of racism. But as a previously stated, Johnson did not see how important this issue was. Due to Dr. King not getting much help from President Johnson he decided to take this stance on his own and do a peaceful march through Salma. This resulted in him and his followers getting brutally beaten and some killed. He knew he couldn’t give up on this task if he ever wanted to bring equality to America. President Johnson didn’t realize how huge this issue was until he met with the governor of Alabama and how the governor had no respect for the African American community. After this encounter President Johnson agreed to immediately help Dr. King by letting African Americans fairly vote.

Dr. King knew that the only way to win this battle was to have help from the president; however, President Johnson was constantly putting this off. Dr. King never gave up though. He constantly fought because he knew what was right and what needed to get done to bring equality to the African American community. This film is very inspirational. Nobody would want to live the lifestyle of Dr. King. His entire life is him fighting, arguing, and living a life of constant danger; however, if the African American community ever wanted to reach equality, somebody needed to step up and take this role. This movie shows that humans can accomplish a lot if they work together and have a passion for completing a goal. Dr. King will forever be an inspiration to us all for everything he did.