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#2

Busses and Boycotts
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When you sit down, do you think that you would make a revolution commence? The answer is most likely no. However, this is exactly what Rosa Parks did. Of course, the start of this revolution was not completed single handedly, many people were part of this effort. Some of these people include Martin Luther King Jr. and Joseph Lacey.

On December 5, 1955, Rosa Parks, an NAACP official, sat down on a bus after a hard day at work. In Montgomery, when the bus was almost full, white people were allowed to have African-Americans move to the back of the bus, so they could sit in the front. A caucasian man entered onto the bus, and James Blake, the bus driver told Parks and three other passengers to move. All of the riders complied, All except Rosa. James Blake then pronounced that he would have her arrested. Even after being told this Rosa simply spoke "You may do that." She then was arrested and charged a fine of \$10. Although this event may seem insignificant, the events that this triggered many events in the United States.

During this time, Martin Luther King Jr. emerged as a prominent leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. Also happening in December 1955, Montgomery's African-American leaders formed the Montgomery Improvement Association or MIA. The leaders in this group included Bayard Rustin, William Stuart Nelson, and Glenn Smiley. They wanted to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks, and selected Martin to head this. With his role of the main spokesman of the year long bus boycott, King deployed the methods of leadership he had learned from his religious and academic background. He wanted to include African-American churches and wanted to get support from the caucasian community. With the reassurance from Glenn Smiley and others, he used nonviolent protest approach, mixed with his Christian social gospel concepts. After the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in 1956, Martin expanded the nonviolent civil rights protest to the South. During this time he joined with C.K. Steele, Fred Shuttlesworth, and T.J. Jemison in founding the SCLC or Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

However, adults were not the only ones with big impacts. A thirteen year old named Joseph Lacey also was involved in during the bus boycott. During the end of the boycott, he drove a church station wagon to carry people back and forth to mass meetings. Other people also started picking people up and taking them places. However, the police started to catch on and began to hand out fines. Since Joseph was also doing this, he frequently was trailed by the police, but was never caught. Thanks to Joseph, many people were able to go to meetings and other events. Since they were able to attend these, multiple protests were able to occur.

Overall, many events lead to the desegregation of African-Americans and Caucasians. The Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 was one of these events that was prominent in this goal. In this nonviolent boycott, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Joseph Lacey were people that affected how we now view people of all colors.

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#3

Fighting for What's Right
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Imagine traveling to a big city. You see all these busses, yet half the population is walking! You see vans and cars that are transporting a lot of people from one place to another, but why is this? The answer was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks, and Joseph Lacey were influential in the boycott and standing up against segregation.

Before the bus boycott, life was terrible for African Americans. You were only allowed in certain restaurants, certain schools, and most of all, you had to sit on "special seats" on the bus! These seats were not as nice as the others. The African Americans got tired of this. So, when Rosa Parks got arrested on December 1, 1955, it changed life for all people forever. It all started when she got on the bus. She was sitting in the front of the bus when the bus driver told her to move to the back so a white person could sit there. She refused and went to jail, which sparked the bus boycott.

The bus boycott occurred in Montgomery, Alabama from December 5, 1955 to December 20th, 1956. This was a form of protest in which African Americans refused to ride the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The African Americans banded together to show that segregation was not right. Races were separated in the bus seats and African American people had to sit in the back. Not only this, but if there were not enough seats in the front, the African American people had to leave the bus.

Martin Luther King Jr. also had a very important role in the bus boycott. After all, he was the leader of the boycott. Martin Luther King Jr. was a person who believed in nonviolent protests. He led African Americans in many important protests. But this one would mean a great deal to the African American community.

Joseph Lacey also showed lots of bravery in the bus boycott. At just thirteen, he drove a station wagon around the town to take people to the mass meetings. It was not easy! A lot of the time, he had police following him. He had to know all the roads and how to get away if he was being followed by the police. I can't believe that he was only thirteen! I could not see myself driving a car, transporting people to meetings, and having to get away from the Cops!

It is clear that Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks, and Joseph Lacey all had an impact on gaining equality for all people. Today things are different because they stood up for themselves.