



Quiet Strength: The Faith, the Hope, and the Heart of a Woman Who Changed a Nation

By Rosa Parks, Gregory J. Reed

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On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. This simple act of courage set in motion a chain of events that changed forever the landscape of American race relations. Now, Mrs. Parks speaks to us all about her life, her passion for freedom and equality, and her strong Christian faith.

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Editorial Review

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Parks, one of the U.S.' authentic living legends, is the black lady who on December 1, 1955, refused to surrender her bus seat to a white man, was arrested under the Jim Crow law that required blacks to make way for whites, and thereby launched the yearlong bus boycott by blacks in Birmingham, Alabama, which led to the national overturning of that city's and similar segregation laws across the nation. In this tiny collection of what seem like outtakes from oral-history tapes, she rehearses her great day (as it seems from the perspective of history; Parks remembers it as "not a happy experience. . . . I had not planned to be arrested"), stressing that it wasn't, as many have romanticized, because her feet were tired that she didn't move, but because she was "tired of being oppressed . . . just plain tired." Her remarks, disposed somewhat arbitrarily into sections topically named "Fear," "Pain," "Character," "Faith," "Values," reflect her lifelong commitment to justice for black Americans and to peace and equal opportunity for all. Further, she leaves no doubt that her persistence in these causes springs from her deep Christian faith and the obligation she feels to make a better world for future generations. Perhaps the sentiments are not all that special, but their speaker certainly is special. *Ray Olson*

From the Back Cover

On June 15, 1999, Mrs. Rosa Parks was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor -- a tribute to the power of one solitary woman to influence the soul of a nation. But awards and influence were far from her mind when, on December 1, 1955, she refused to move to the back of a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. She was not trying to start a movement. She was simply tired of social injustice and did not think a woman should be forced to stand so that a man could sit down. Yet her simple act of courage set in motion a chain of events that changed forever the landscape of American race relations. *Quiet Strength* celebrates the principles and convictions that have guided her through a remarkable life. It is a printed record of her legacy -- her lasting message to a world still struggling to live in harmony.

About the Author

The late Rosa Parks was co-founder of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development and is recognized as the 'mother of the modern-day civil rights movement.'

Users Review

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