

Question 3

Make a Mark, Take a Stand

When I look at the destruction and struggles of the Jewish Holocaust such as synagogue burnings, public beatings, mass deportations, and the murder of millions of Jews, along with the Civil Rights Movement, the Rwandan Genocide, Taliban executions, and bullying in schools, symptoms of a sick world, I cannot help but believe the solutions to eradicate the “disease” lay in the hands of the public. There are two powerful quotes that I believe whole heartedly fill the prescription: “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest” by Elie Wiesel and “He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it” by Martin Luther King.

As members of the human race we have moral obligations. The bible teaches us that the Greatest Commandment is to “Love the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength... [and to] love your neighbor as yourself.” We are not to stand by and simply watch our brothers and sisters get hurt and humiliated, let alone hurt and disrespect them ourselves. We are our brothers’ keepers and it is our duty to stand up for them. Like the famous phrases, “you’re either with us or against us” or “if you’re not helping, then you’re hurting”. When people break that commandment, they become co-conspirators and perpetrators. In situations where lives are taken, there is no neutral. There is only for or against.

I believe in the power of one person’s voice to inspire the changes that are needed in the world today. Like Elie Wiesel, who shared his nightmare in the book *Night*, or Corrie Ten Boom in her book *The Hiding Place*. Martin Luther King marched on Washington and Malala

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Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education even after surviving a bullet to the head. Mrs. Kerry Goldman became a voice for the anti-bullying movement after posting on the internet about her daughter's bullying experience and it went viral. All of these advocates for change saw a problem in the world and refused to remain silent. They sought and demanded change. Individually these progressive people made waves in our society and in turn things changed. If these people possessed the power to change nations, what could millions of people working as one do? We all have a joint responsibility to create a world of acceptance and respect for all individuals. The prescription for the cure lies in our hands individually and collectively.