



International Assembly
Monday 17th January 2022

SAM COOKE

A CHANGE IS

GONNA COME

vevo

A change is gonna come

That piece of music was a famous song called 'A change is gonna come'.

It tells of a time in the USA when many people wanted the law changed so that black people would be treated the same as white people.

We might find this a difficult thing to understand nowadays, when we know that all people are equally valuable and when we get angry about discrimination of any sort. However, this was a huge problem in the past.



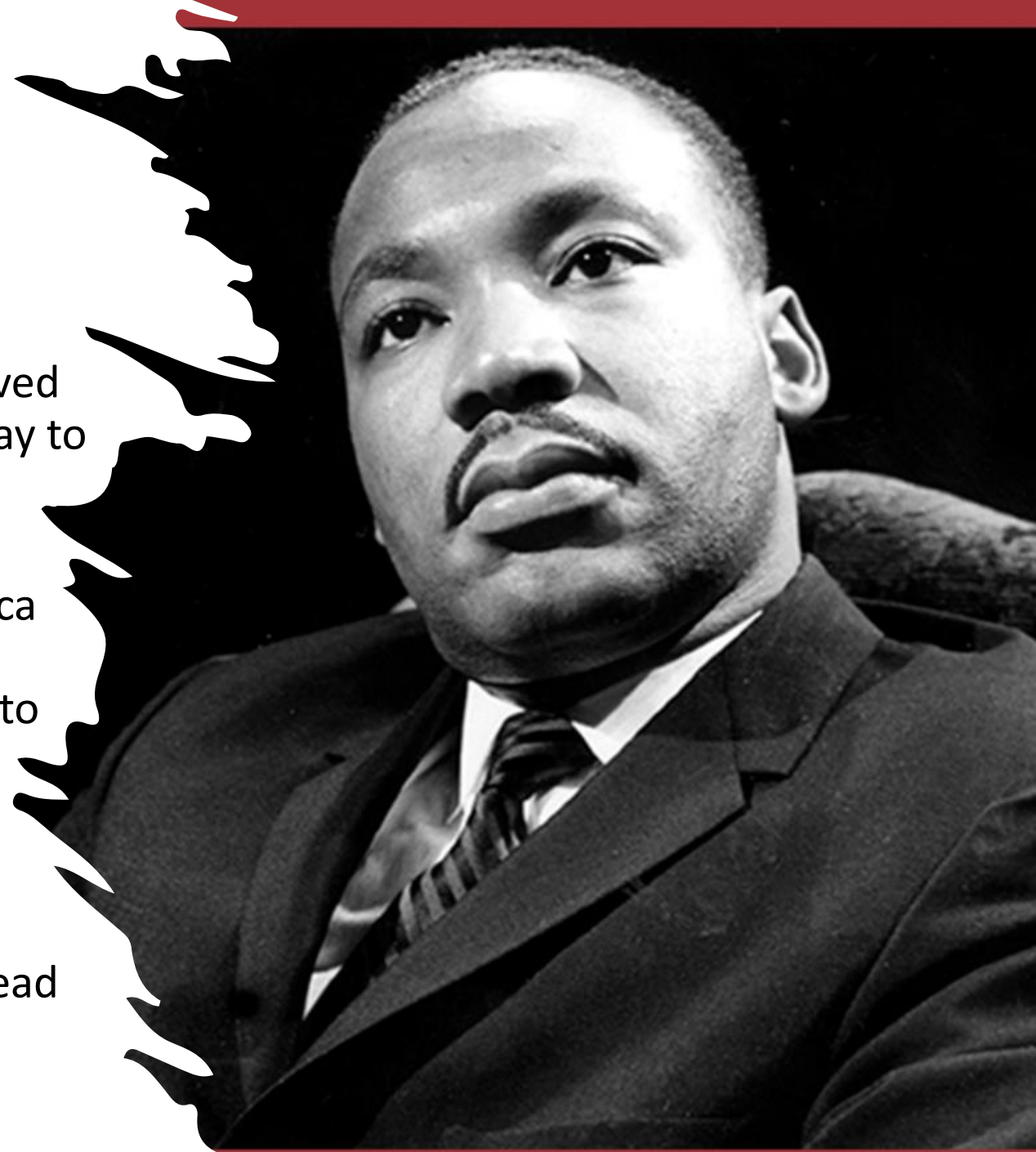
Who is this a picture of?

The picture was taken 1961 and it shows Dr Martin Luther King.

Dr King was born on the 15th of January 1929 and lived in America...where every year there is a public holiday to remember and celebrate his life.

At the time Martin Luther King lived, much of America did not allow the same rights to all its citizens - for example, a black person might not be allowed to go to the same places or do the same things as a white person.

Dr King devoted his life to finding peaceful ways to struggle against that injustice and became a figurehead for what is known as the Civil Rights Movement.



Martin Luther King advanced civil rights through non-violence and civil disobedience inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

Martin organised peaceful marches to help people be kinder and fairer to each other.

He wanted people to treat each other well, no matter what they looked like. He wanted people to speak up against unfairness of any kind, but never to be violent against others, even when they faced others who were very violent.

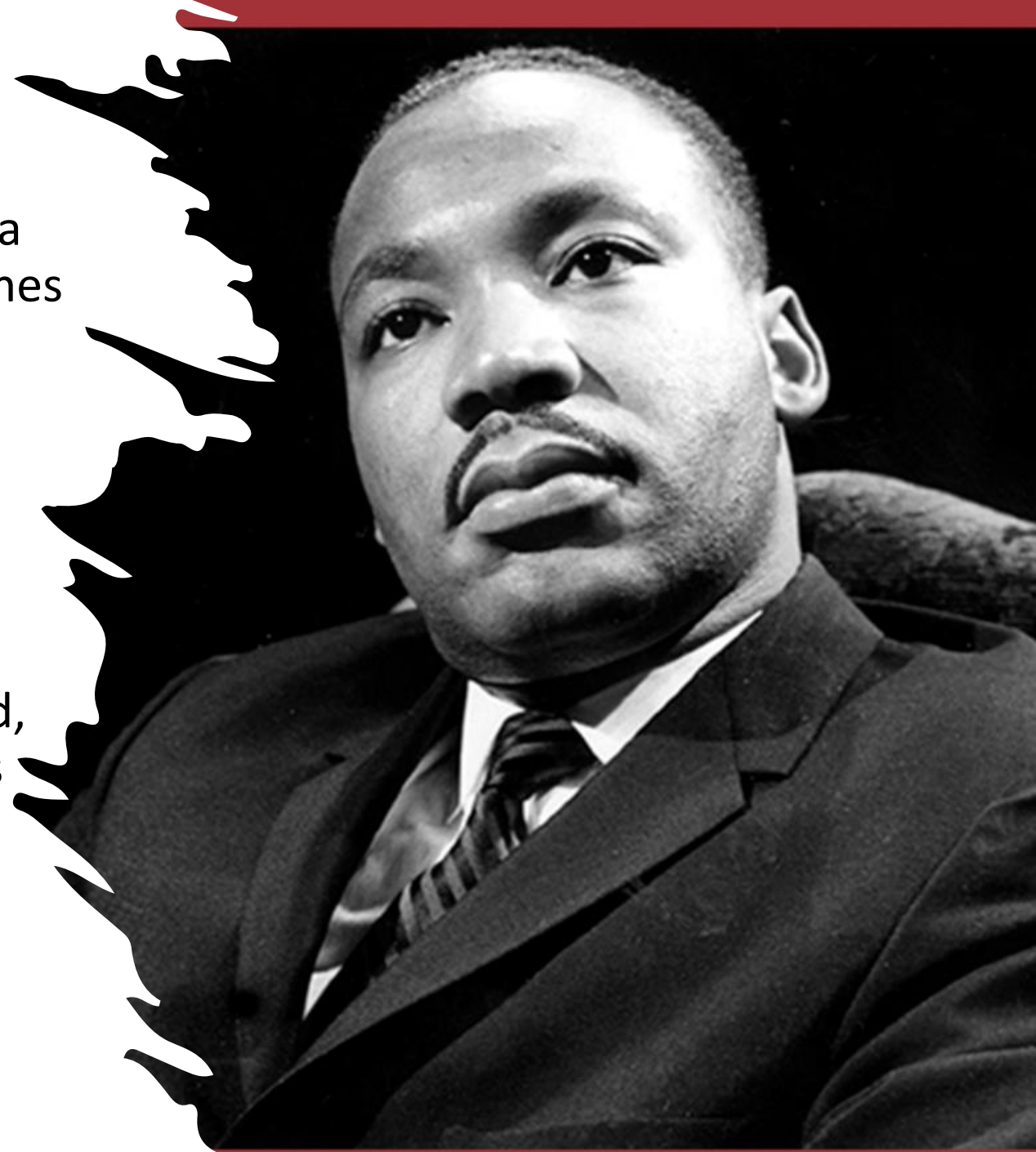


“I have a dream...”

Dr Martin Luther King is particularly famous for a speech he gave - one of the most famous speeches of all time - in which he outlined his vision for a fairer, more just society for everyone.

Today we call it the ‘I have a dream speech’.

In our story a woman remembers how, as a child, she was taken by her father to hear that famous speech...



Dream on

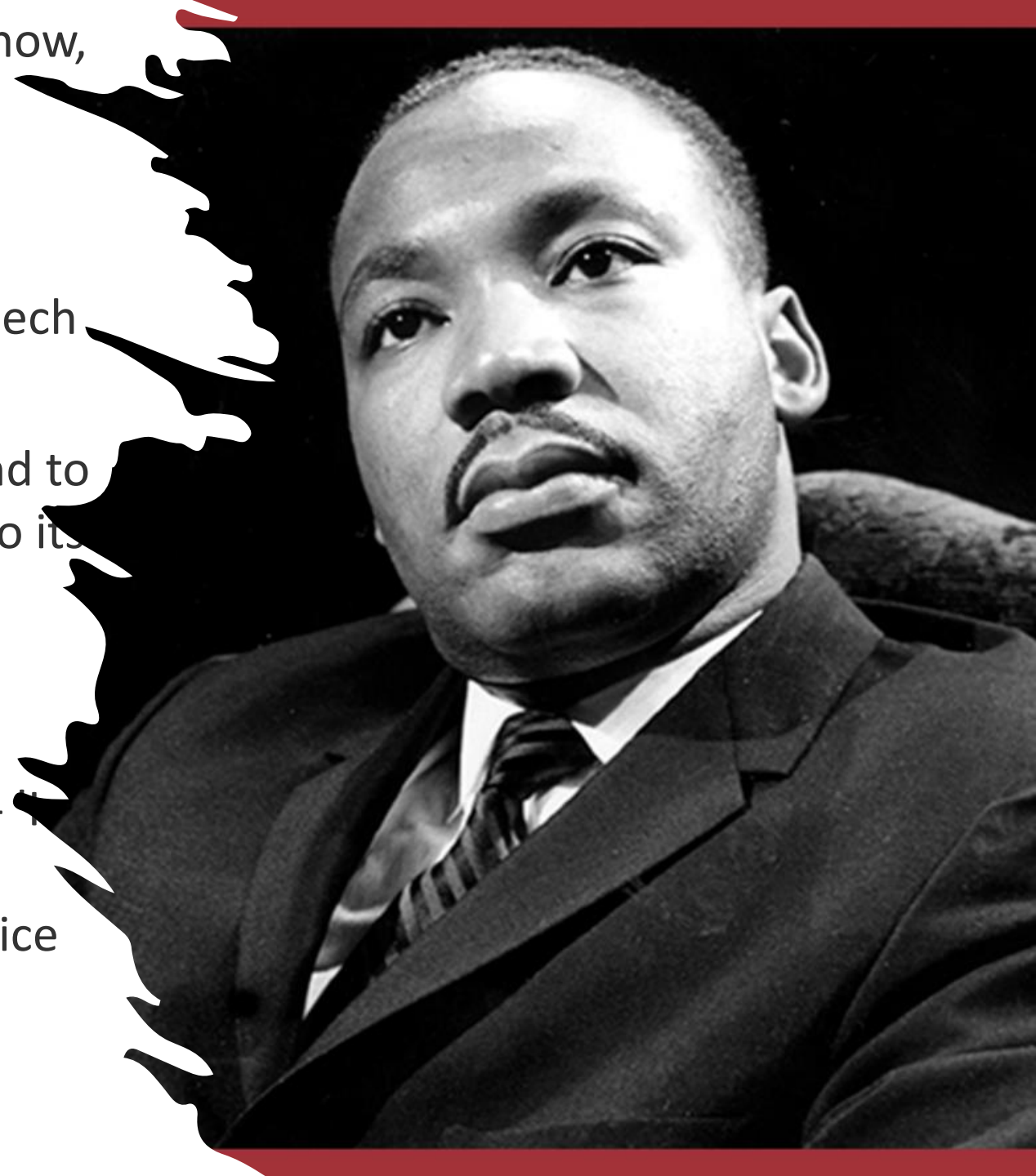
[Dr Martin Luther King - 'Dream on' - BBC Teach](#)

In the video we saw a woman who remembers how, as a girl, she was taken by her father in 1963 to Washington to hear a man talk.

At first she couldn't understand why her father would drag her along to hear a man giving a speech that seemed to go on and on.

She remembers how the crowd began to respond to the speaker and how as he brought his speech to its climax the crowds began to shout and cheer - herself included.

The memory of Dr Martin Luther King's speech - 'I have a dream' - has stayed with her across the years...an inspiration to carry on striving for justice and freedom for everyone.



Dr Martin Luther King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, aged just 35.

He was assassinated in 1968.

Martin Luther King Day is a time to celebrate the life of MKL but it is also a **reminder to everyone** that equality in society is something we can never afford to take for granted and that the work must go on.

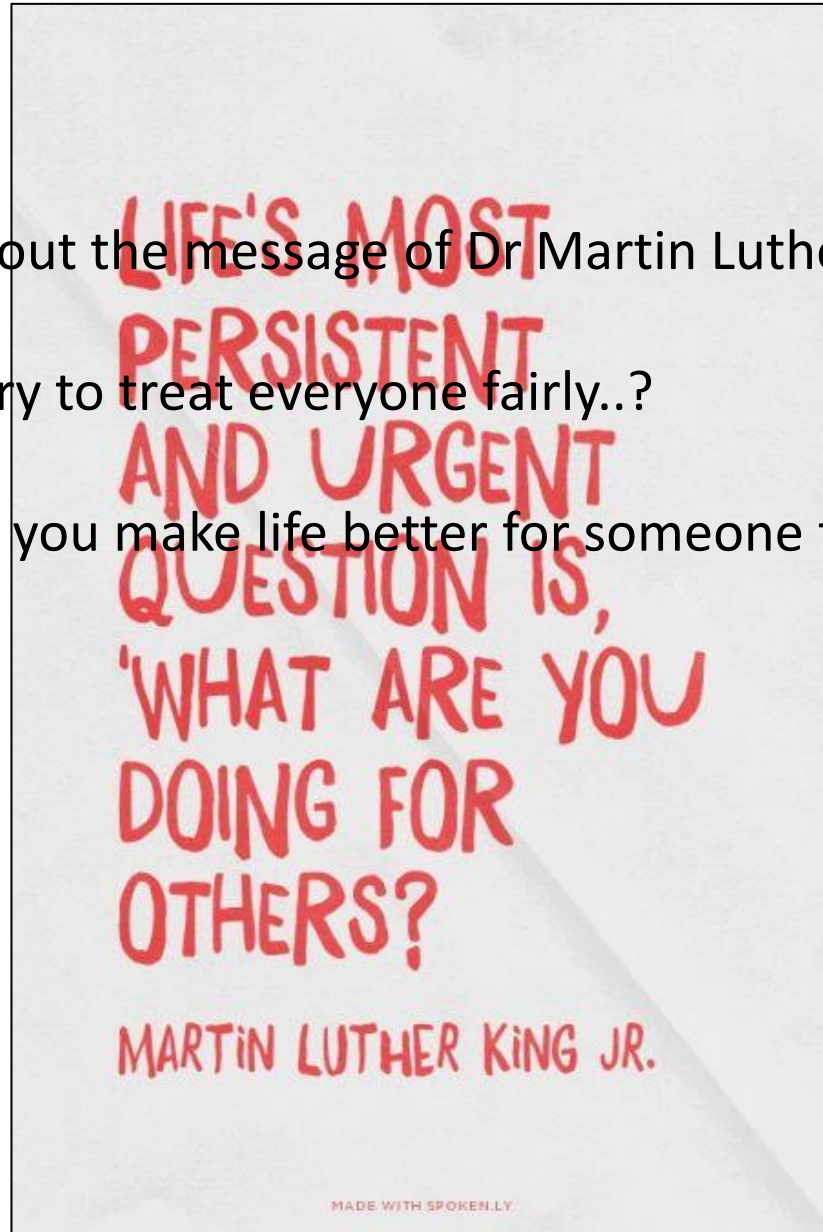


What are **you** doing for others?

Think about the message of Dr Martin Luther King...

Do you try to treat everyone fairly..?

How can you make life better for someone today..?



Let us Pray

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

We thank you for the life of Martin Luther King and what we can all learn from it.

Help us to remember that, in the words of Dr King himself: 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that'.

Amen.

St Bede pray for us

All the English Martyrs pray for us.

