

The Time is Always Ripe to Do Right: *Letter from Birmingham Jail* Response

Respond to as many of the following as you wish before your Finals day. The only requirements for this assignment are that you write insightfully, honestly, and well.

Questions

- 1) Do you agree with King's assertion that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice anywhere"? Please respond with an eye towards current events.
- 2) Do you believe you are strong enough to do what King urged his followers to do – to accept physical or psychological punishment in order to do that which you believe is right? Please explain and support your position.
- 3) Is King's style of non-violent protest the best way to raise awareness of an issue, particularly in today's technologically advanced age? Do you foresee new methods of protesting/education arising within the next few decades?
- 4) Do you agree with Reinhold Niebuhr's belief – that "groups are more immoral than individuals"? Please explain and support your position.
- 5) Do you think it's as easy as King argues to forget about the plight of those less fortunate than yourself? Have you ever volunteered/served/assisted those who are worse off than you? Do you plan to do so in the future?
- 6) Do you agree with King's argument regarding law-breaking – that one who disobeys a law they feel is unjust and willingly accepts the consequences is actually demonstrating the utmost respect for the "law"?
- 7) \What does King mean when he says that "the South, the nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists"? Do you agree?
- 8) Is "right defeated stronger than evil triumphant"? Can an idea ever be defeated?
- 9) Which is worse – to use "immoral means to attain moral ends," or to use "moral means to preserve immoral ends" – and why?
- 10) If King is correct – if "we must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right" – what do you plan to do that is "right"?