

Over the course of history in the US, there have been many African Americans figures who have made a significant change in the ways our country functions today. Many of these African Americans have put their blood, sweat, tears, and lives into further improving our country. When you think of this statement, some African Americans that may come to mind are Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Rosa Parks. These figures have contributed greatly to the way our society is today, but there is one person whose name isn't brought up as much as these people but is very significant in history as well as an inspiration for all those past slaves who had been free through his activism towards slavery as well as being dedicated to abolishing it. That person goes by the name of Frederick Douglass.

Frederick Douglass had been a former enslaved man who was an important activist, author, as well as a public speaker. He had further become the leader of the abolitionist movement, which was a movement to put slavery to an end during the span of before and during the Civil War. After these conflicts along with the event of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, he would continuously push for equality as well as human rights till his last day which was February 20, 1895. He had also been a strong advocate for the rights of women as well as, specifically in allowing women the right to vote.

Douglass' life had began with him being born into slavery during the year of 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. He himself didn't know his exact birth date and was the son of an enslaved Black woman and a white man of European descent. He had been born with the name of Frederick Bailey but had changed his name to Douglass after he had escaped slavery. He had been separated from his mother as a baby and from there would be sent from one person to another in which along the way, he gained knowledge on how to read as well as write. With this knowledge, he would teach other enslaved Africans also how to read and write.

When this had spread around, he had been transferred to Edward Covey who was a farmer that was very well known for his brutal treatment towards enslaved people. At this time, Douglass was 16 years of age and would be regularly whipped by Covey. Douglass was able to escape Covey's torture in 1838 from which he traveled several states and then went on to marry Anna Murray that very same year. This couple then moved to New Bedford Massachusetts, from which Douglass was attracted in attending the abolitionist movement meetings. He had been inspired by abolitionist writer and journalist William Lloyd Garrison, who further supported him in becoming the leader of the abolitionist movement. He would then go onto tell stories of his life regarding the slavery issues he dealt with, along with how he further provoked slavery to end as well as fighting for equality amongst all.