This morning I want to have you think about some of the things that are just as true in history as we find the truth in the natural law. The coming of the heat with the south wind, the coming of the rain with the gathering of the clouds. There are some things that are as basic and as structural in history, as in nature. If we do not know these things, we are in danger of destroying ourselves and destroying the world. If we are to discern the signs of the times in which we live, we must understand a basic truth, that evil carries the seed of its own destruction. Ultimately there is a checkpoint in the Universe, there is at the end of the road of evil a sign which says, "Dead end street. You won't get through here." If you see evil rising high, do not worry, one day it will be cut down.

Go with me back across the centuries of French history. Watch the kings as they exploit and trample over the people of France thinking only about themselves and their families and their welfare. Louis XIV, his wife, Marie Antoinette, had literally wagons of meat to feed their dogs. The begging masses of people went hungry. In a few short years that same Louis XVI and his wife were beheaded by his own people.

It is the long story of history. "Evil carries the seed of its own destruction.

The evil system of colonization got started in the world and the great nations of Europe moved into Asia and Africa exploiting the people economically, and dominating them politically. It came to the point that the vast majority of the people of Asia and Africa were dominated by some foreign power. Finally the people fought for an end and won. Britain had under its domination more than sixty million people in Asia and Africa but not today. Evil carries the seeds of its own destruction.

There is a process in the God's universe. God still reigns in history.

You know, we know about another evil don't we? It started in 1619 right here in this nation our foreparents were brought here to slave from the soil of Africa. For more than Two Hundred Forty years Africa was raped and plundered, her native kingdoms disorganized, her people and rulers demoralized. We lived with that system right here for 244 years and then for a period it looked like we were going to get out with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. But we were only half way out.

It looked like we were doomed to stay in slavery and segregation for ever. But evil carries the seed of its own destruction. God spoke through nine men in 1954, on May 17. They examined the legal body of segregation and pronounced it constitutionally dead and ever since then things have been changing. We can go to places all over the South that we could not go last year. Why? Because evil carries the seed of its own destruction. And I am convinced that segregation is just as dead as a doornail and the only thing I am uncertain about is how costly the segregationist will make the funeral.

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10 Cf Luke 12: 54, 55
11 Louis XVI was executed on 21 January 1793. Marie Antoinette suffered the same fate on 16 October 1793.
12 Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on 22 September 1862.
13 On 17 May 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled, in the case of Brown v Board of Education et al., 347 U.S. 483, that segregation in education was unconstitutional.
The old order is passing away. Evil carries the seed of its own destruction. William Cullen Bryant caught it and said, "Truth across the earth will rise again." Carlisle caught it and said, "No lie can live forever." James Russell Lowell caught it and said, "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne, and yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown stands God within the shadow keeping watch above his own." The Bible caught it right, "You shall reap what you sow." Evil carries the seed of its own destruction and that is just as true as the rising and the setting of the sun. If we understand the facts of nature, let us understand the facts of history.

TD CSKC Sermon file, folder 79, "Discerning the Signs of History"

14 Bryant, "The Battlefield" (1839)
15 Thomas Carlyle, The French Revolution (1837)
16 Lowell, "The Present Crisis" (1844)
17 Cf Galatians 6:7 and 2 Corinthians 5:6

"The Task of Christian Leadership Training for Education in the Local Community"

[28 June - 3 July 1955]
[Atlantic City, NJ ?]

King traveled to Atlantic City on 28 June to attend the National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress. The subject matter of the following undated, typed manuscript indicates that it may have served as the basis for an address at the conference. King lays out three primary challenges facing local communities—economics, religious sectarianism, and race. He criticizes "the attempt on the part of Negroes to build up a class system within the bounds of the Negro race." King calls for leaders who are open-minded and intelligent to address spiritual and physical needs and to exhibit moral authority.

About two weeks ago, a little more than five hundred Negro young men and women graduated from the six institutions of higher learning in my home City, Atlanta, Georgia. In that City a little more than six hundred boys and girls received high school diplomas. I am all but sure that this same thing happened in numerous other communities of our nation.

1 In a letter written 28 June 1955, King indicated he was departing for the convention (see King to Benjamin Elijah Mays, 28 June 1955, in Papers 2:562-563). The National Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress was a division of the National Baptist Convention.
2 King most likely refers to Atlanta University, Clark College, Morehouse College, Morris Brown College, Spelman College, and Gammon Theological Seminary, all historically black institutions in Atlanta during the 1950s.