

Satisfaction

Written by Julie Desmond
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The festivities surrounding the funeral of Nelson Mandela earlier this month was fascinating to watch and to think about: People dancing in the streets in honor of Mandela's life and his accomplishments. Dignitaries, who would never have stood in the same stadium together for any reason, standing together... shaking hands! What a man! What an impact! And what am I doing with my life?

I have never lived in an African village. I have never spent twenty seven years in jail (nor any years, actually). I have never forgiven people for heinous offenses. I have never led a country into a new age, nor given a whole generation of people a new culture to enjoy.

I heard someone ask, "What's the big deal?" I have to believe that person was kidding. Most people know, Mandela's contributions are a very big deal. And the truth is, those of us with far more resources (or any resources) and relatively far fewer obstacles can probably do better than we do every day to make the world a better one for the people we engage with.

When you go, who will be sorry to say goodbye? Who will say, "My life is changed because this person traveled through it?" Will thousands of people be dancing in the streets in celebration of your remarkable life? Will anyone? Will you be satisfied with that?

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