

"If you're out there, sing along with me. If you're out there, I'm dying to believe. If you're out there, stand up and say it loud, if you're out there."

Tomorrow's starting now. Wow, did you here John Legend's song, "If You're Out There"? A leader is coming to change the world. It says so in the song. Who is this person that they're talking about? Where are they? I mean, the song says they're supposed to change the world, right?

Good timing, too. Everywhere I look, it seems like there is something else wrong. We could sure use some help. I mean look at all we have got going on. War, famine, natural disasters! Good thing this leader is here, because I don't know about you but I do not have time to change the world. I mean with sports and school I hardly have time to sleep. Someone else can change the world. They don't need my help, right? I'm just one person after all. What good can I do?

Well I guess if everybody thought like that, we would never get anything done. We'd still be stuck in the Stone Age.

You know, the more I think about it the more I realize that I can help. Just by myself, I can make a difference. I can read the messages out there for me and live those messages. It wouldn't even take much time. I bet I could even do something as simple as community service, or working at a food bank. I'm sure any small act would make a huge impact in someone's life. And it doesn't have to stop there. So many things need to be changed in this world.

There are hundreds of organizations and other groups of people out there whose purpose is to help those that need it. Victims of war or others that have been unlucky enough to be thrown into situations of misery, they are screaming out for help. These people need us and it is our responsibility as human beings to help them. And other people aren't the only ones in trouble. Our world is in trouble as well.

I don't know about all of you but I have always been a big fan of Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." For those of you that have seen this film, you know the dangers that face our world. If we do not act now we are headed towards a future where we live under water. Pollution, global warming, all of these things can be avoided. However, this movie is not trying to show how hopeless our situation is. Mr. Gore even ends the movie telling how these problems can be stopped. We fixed the hole in the ozone layer and we can fix this too he says. Humankind can fix any problem thrown at them if we join hands together and work for a better tomorrow. The messages and the signs are out there. We just need to read them.

You know, maybe we aren't looking for a leader. Maybe we are the leaders. These messages aren't something we are supposed to blow off and leave for someone else to decipher. It is our time to show what we are made of. I know there are some, including me sometimes, who feel too small and insignificant to make a difference. I mean, like I said before, what good can one person do?

What good? What good? I'm starting to wonder why people ask this question. Sometimes I ask friends about things I've seen in current events. I ask them what they think about things like war or famine, and other things that greatly impact our world and could affect them. It saddens me to say that the usual response I receive is quick, and uncaring "Yeah, yeah its sad." " Well don't you care about what is going on at all?" I ask.

They respond with, "Dude why do you care so much, it's not like it's happening to you." Why do I care? Why do I care? Are they seriously asking me this question? We need to open

our eyes and our ears to what's going on around us. Just because these things aren't happening to us doesn't mean that it's something we can just forget about and leave for someone else to change. If we are going to change the world, it's our time now to band together. This is something no one person can do by themselves. It is going to take the effort of everyone.

Sometimes I have teachers that tell us, their students how sorry they are. They say it was their generation that quote unquote messed up this earth. Well as sincere as their apologies might be, that's all it is. An apology. We aren't going to fix the problems in this world by saying sorry. We need to be the leaders that we all can be and use the ingenuity that we all possess.

I'll leave you with this line from John Legend's song. "If you here this message, wherever you stand. I'm calling every woman, calling every man. We're the generation. We can't afford to wait. The future started yesterday, and we're already late."