Rosa Parks is a famous African-American woman, and she is often called “the mother of the civil rights movement.” She was born into a poor but hardworking African-American family in Alabama, and no one suspected that she would become the spark that ignited the civil rights movement in the United States. This movement changed U.S. society forever, and it helped African-Americans attain equal rights under the law.

Parks became famous quite by accident. One day in 1955, she was on her way home from her job in a Montgomery, Alabama, department store. She boarded a city bus with three other African-Americans. They sat in the fifth row. The fifth row was the first row African-Americans were allowed to sit in. A few stops later, the front four rows filled up. A white man was left standing.

According to the laws of that time, African-Americans had to give up their seats to whites, so the bus driver asked Parks and the three other African-Americans to get up and move. Although the others complied, Parks refused. She later said she was not tired from work, but tired of being treated like a second-class citizen. The bus driver called the police, who arrested Parks and took her away in handcuffs.

Over the weekend, a protest was organized, and on the following Monday African-American people in Montgomery began a boycott of the public buses, and the boycott was tremendously successful, and it lasted more than a year. The Supreme Court of the United States finally ruled that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional. African-Americans had won a huge victory, and they realized their power to change the system.