



Thoughts on Service

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Mohandas Gandhi

Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.
Marian Wright Edelman

Few will have the greatness to bend history; but each of us can work to change a small portion of the vents, and in the total of all these acts will be written the history of this generation. . . It is from numberless diverse acts of courage . . . [and] . . . belief that human history is shaped. Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistances.
Robert F. Kennedy

All life is interrelated. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
Anne Frank

Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants. People have the right to expect that these wants will be provided for by this wisdom.
Jimmy Carter

Never doubt that a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever does.
Margaret Meade

Some men see things as they are and say, "Why?" I dream of things that never were and say, "Why not?"
George Bernard Shaw

Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

*If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.*
Emily Dickinson

Genuine politics -- even politics worthy of the name -- the only politics I am willing to devote myself to -- is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole.
Vaclav Havel

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.
Albert Einstein

It's time for greatness -- not for greed. It's a time for idealism -- not ideology. It is a time not just for compassionate words, but compassionate action.
Marian Wright Edelman

This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream -- a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone, but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity; the dream of a country where every man will respect the dignity and worth of the human personality.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.
Horace Mann

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.
John F. Kennedy