

Quotations

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. ... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the creative light of altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's persistent and most urgent question is "What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Anne Frank, German-Jewish teenager

I don't know what your destiny will be, but the one thing I know; the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer, theologian and physician

Remember that everyone's life is measured by the power that individual has to make the world better -- this is all life is.

Booker T. Washington, African American leader/educator

Now the trumpet summons us again -- not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need -- not as a call to battle, though embattled we are -- but a call to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle year in and year out, "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation" -- a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty and war itself.

John F. Kennedy, 35th U.S. President

If every American donated five hours a week, it would equal the labor of 20 million full-time volunteers.

Whoopi Goldberg, actress

We must serve consciously as caring role models, emphasizing the ethic of service, not consumption.

Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund

It is a privilege to serve people, a privilege that must be earned, and once earned, there is an obligation to do something good with it.

Barbara Jordan, lawyer and U.S. Congresswoman

Service is the highest spiritual discipline. Prayer and meditation, or knowledge of scripture and Vedanta [a Hindu school of thought], cannot help you reach the goal as quickly as service can. Service has a double effect: it extinguishes the ego and gives bliss.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Indian spiritual leader

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley, English evangelist, founder of Methodism

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead, anthropologist

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.

Mahatma Gandhi, political and spiritual leader in India