but refuse to administer the remedy. This stone has no place in the memorial we are constructing for our posterity.

With the coming of the era known as the commercial revolution, many changes in the economic life of man took place. The Dutch were the first people to discover that taking gold from another man’s pocket was much easier than taking it from the earth. As a result, they developed one of the largest merchant marines the world has ever known. These ships traversed the globe in search of necessities and luxuries which could be exchanged for gold; this is the same system used for exploiting our fellow men today. During every wakeful hour, man drives his brain to the breaking point in order to formulate new methods for obtaining the gold of others. No longer is his business enterprise a means of producing necessities for others and a living for himself; it is a means for fattening his deity—gold. Today man sacrifices his religion; he wastes his education; he toys with the future of his nation—all for the love of material wealth. This large block of stone has been marred almost beyond repair, and a great amount of cutting and polishing will have to be done before we can consider it for use in our great structure.

As we inspect the material we have available and separate the desirable from the undesirable, we find that we have no corner stone nor any other desirable stones. Only by careful selection, delicate cutting, and fine polishing can we hope to obtain material to build an edifice for our posterity. We will have to work diligently if we are to build an eternal life. Are you a competent builder?

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Give Thanks for Thoreau

Joyce Barnard

In Life Without Principle Henry David Thoreau makes the following statement: “Do not hire a man who does your work for money, but hire him who does it for love of it.” Thoreau feels that a working man’s aim should not be to make a living or hold a good job, but rather to perform well a certain task. He also states that all roads to money lead downward and that the worker who gets nothing but money from his job cheats both himself and his employer.

Thoreau’s statements are indeed impressive and thought-provoking. Such lofty ideals should be given considerable thought by every young person seeking a place for himself in the world. To the modern youth, these ideals may seem completely impractical and even a little queer. As a person, Thoreau was unconventional and individualistic. One student even expressed the opinion that he was a hermit, a misfit and a failure.
I admit that in the hurry-scurry world of business today it might appear foolish to try to live by Thoreau's ideals. I do not advocate that one should try to do so, but I do think that the principles of Thoreau show a great, thoughtful mind; and his courage in living up to those ideals shows strength of character that we modern, practical persons know little of. Thoreau's opinions, though infeasible in practice, are valuable in theory and should not be taken lightly. People will continue to feel that it is foolish to preach that we should suppress desire for material gain and work only for the love of working. There will be many who say, "It just won't work," but perhaps a few will think again and say, "Why won't it work? How do we know until we try it?"

The world may never live by Thoreau's ideals, but if by expressing them he causes people to consider their worth, he certainly can not be called a failure.

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Silence

Jerry Mitchell

Is there anything more expressive than silence? Words are expressive, but they often are just part of a clamorous maelstrom that makes us dizzy. Silence can tell a person much, if he will listen.

We say that night is a quiet time, but there is much to be heard. There are the noises that small animals make which we hear only when we concentrate on them. There are the noises of wind and water and the rustle of leaves. Most expressive, though, is the absolute silence that screams at a person, making his ears ring or making him fear the unseen and the unheard.

Some silence is premeditated—intended to mean something definite. Sometimes a parent or teacher can exact discipline more readily by saying nothing than by scolding. Comedians use silence very effectively (they often get their biggest laughs out of what they do not say). Diplomatic crises, even, have arisen from silence.

Sweetest of all is the silence that words can not replace. Two friends who understand one another perfectly seldom need to speak, for they will be thinking similarly about the same experiences. Beautiful scenes are often spoiled by thoughtless people who say, "Oh! Isn't that bee-u-ti-ful!" Many emotions are so deep that words could never express, and silence only suggest their depth.

Silence can mean more than words can ever hope to say. The most inspiring time I know is at dawn, when all birds and animals are quiet. They let complete silence herald a new day.