

# Cultivate your untapped resources

I've been traveling for the last week or so, and I'm late getting to this week's edition of Monday Motivation. I apologize to those of you who missed it.

A couple of days ago, I was driving through California's Central Valley. For those of you who have never been there, the Central Valley is home to a multitude of farms, growing everything under the sun. One mile, you're driving by a cotton farm, the next mile, there are row after row of almond trees, the next mile pistachio trees, and so forth.

The valley was created from what was at one time arid soil, by the creation of a vast irrigation network of dams, pumps, canals, and rivers. The network moves water from California's northern country farther south.

It's impossible, I think, to drive through that country without being awestruck by the vast variety of items that are grown. But when I drive through it, I'm also amazed by what isn't being grown. Some areas have never been cultivated, and remain the native desert soil. One place that always amazes me is where the property line of a vast orchard butts up against a barren terrain. Now there are those who think the barren terrain is a better way to go -- but for me, it's always a testament to the ability of people, through concentrated effort and a vision for the future.

I'm reminded of the old story, which I've told before, of the minister, lost in the desert, who comes upon a vast man-made oasis. Staggering into the oasis, which is full of parks, structures, and food of any desire, the minister remarks to the owner "My, how God has blessed you here." "Yes," says the owner, "I've been blessed. But you should have seen this place while He ran it."

Our lives should be similar. Like the land of the Central Valley, we have vast, untapped wealth and opportunity within us. What we need is to actively cultivate those untapped resources, and let our lives and our abilities flower within us.

Man has always changed the landscape around him -- sometimes for the worst, and often for the best. But all of us need to learn to develop a vision of where we should go with our lives, and then learn how to put the concentrated effort into play to bring about those changes for good.

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