

The Road Not Taken

About 360 years ago, a shipload of travelers landed on the northeast coast of America. The first year, they established a town site. The next year, they elected a town government. The third year, the town government planned to build a road five miles westward into the wilderness.

In the fourth year, the people tried to impeach their town government because they thought it was a waste of public funds to build a road five miles westward into a wilderness. Who needed to go there anyway?

What a remarkable turnaround in attitude! Here were people who had the vision to see 3,000 miles across an ocean and overcome great hardships to get there. But in just a few years, they were not able to see even five miles out of town. They had lost their pioneering vision.

Before we rush to judgment on these citizens in early America, we should examine the implications of what occurred and how it applies to us in 2004. Complacency can shackle us, no matter what time or place. It robs us of creativity and an adventuresome spirit, the stuff of which progress is made. Vision, and the plans necessary to achieve it, should always energize us, whether in our personal or professional lives.

--Beecher Hunter