

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Commissioning of the seven. Acts 6:1-7
You're special! 1 Peter 2:4-9
Seen me? You've seen the Father! John 14:1-12

Next week:

If you love me, keep my
commandments. Acts 8:5-8,14-17;
1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

In a nutshell

'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' This is both a statement about Jesus the Christ and a call to discipleship. Amidst the plurality of competing values in our society, today's Gospel draws us to a true and authentic 'way' that leads to salvation; only the truth can bring us life.



Black-out!

At work recently, there was a sudden power failure in our building. For 35 minutes nothing electrical worked. 'There's a black-out,' I explained to a client as if it wasn't already obvious. 'Yes, I know,' she replied. 'Eerie, isn't it?' She was right. The whole atmosphere was somehow different - calmer, less pressured, much quieter. The bright lights that lit up every corner of every room were gone. Instead there was a soft glow of natural lighting from the windows, sensitizing us to our surroundings.

But the silence was the most striking thing. I had never realised how much background noise existed in our offices: the hum of the computers and photocopiers, the fine buzzing sounds of the fluorescent lights, the purr of the refrigerator, the bubbling sound of water boiling in the electric jug, the air conditioning... all were gone. Instead there were new sounds, people sounds. Because it was so quiet, everyone was talking more

softly yet being heard more easily. I became aware of people chatting at the end of the corridor who would normally have gone unnoticed. I was more aware of myself. Every movement I made produced some noise and I became very conscious of what I was doing. I felt far more in touch with my own being and with everyone around me.

Then the electricity came back on and, almost instantly, we were back in a brightly lit, noisy, distracted world.

I reflected on this incident later. Life is so full of tiny distractions which can make us lose sight of the fundamentals of who we are and what we mean to each other. We need to create situations where we disconnect from 'things' and make time for people and for God. (Ron)

This week: Turn off the radio. Open the channels of your heart.

What life!

In our pharmacy today I served an 84 year-old lady who is back-packing her way around Australia. She stays in youth hostels en route and yes, she had the back-pack and all the appropriate gear. She told me that she spends a large part of her year travelling like this. 'I get rather lonely at home,' she explained. 'Everyone in my block of units keeps to themselves. But the young people I meet in the youth hostels are so friendly and open and love to chat. It's an unusual lifestyle for someone my age, but I find it brings me so much life!' (Jackie)

Think...Talk...Act

- Name the things which distract us from being fully alive and free in Christ.
- Why is it important to stay connected to a faith community if one is to follow Christ?
- Commit yourself to one practical step which will help strengthen your bond with people of faith.

Finding a way

Over the course of my life, I have participated in a number of small faith groups: prayer groups, family clusters, lay movements. Some of these experiences have been wonderful. Others have been shaky. One ended badly. Through all these ups and downs, I continue to this day to seek ways of sharing my faith on a regular basis with other like-minded people. What is interesting is that when I look back over twenty years of being open to these kind of invitations I can see how greatly my life has been enriched and how my faith has grown and deepened. Like family life, at any given moment in time a Christian community may be on a 'high', a 'low' or a 'plateau'. But it is in the faithful perseverance over time that the life-changing effects are felt. (Kevin)



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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