

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Abraham follows God. Genesis 12:1-4
Called to follow Christ. 2 Timothy 1:8-10
Revelling in the Father's love. Matthew 17:1-9

Next week:

The Samaritan woman at the well.
Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2,5-8;
John 4:5-42

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel describes the transfiguration, a foretaste of the glory into which Jesus the Messiah would enter after the horror of the cross. The apostles' reaction to this extraordinary event moves from misunderstanding to fearful awe. The voice from heaven points to Jesus as the heart of the mystery of God's love.



In a different light

When we look at the world through God's eyes of love our view of people and events can be transformed into something far more beautiful and truthful.

Our parish held its First Communion celebration. In the context of middle class suburbia I noticed a couple of young candidates rather poorly and inappropriately dressed for such an important occasion. As one of the organisers their attire didn't worry me, but I was disappointed that First Communion didn't mean more to them and their family.

Later in the day a parishioner took me aside and sensitively explained the situation: The children were dressed in the only clothes their mother could afford. Their mother, a solo parent under great emotional and financial pressure, was all too aware of her inability to meet the unwritten dress code and felt acutely embarrassed throughout the morning's proceedings.

Gosh, did that little bit of

knowledge transform my attitude dramatically. What had appeared as parental carelessness was in fact a sign of true commitment. Here was a mother who could easily have withdrawn her children from the celebration in order to protect herself from the judgmental attitudes of people like me. But no, she knew that First Communion was of great importance to her children. She endured her feelings of inadequacy so that her children could receive this sacrament.

I was pleased to learn that the pastoral associate had made arrangements for the parish to respond with financial assistance. With gratitude I reflected on the gift of this family in our midst. Through their witness God had transformed my criticism into a deeper awareness, allowing me to see the holiness of people in a totally new light. (RC)

When did the world appear brighter, more beautiful?

'The day I had a warm, easygoing conversation with my teenage son after what seemed like years of non-communicative grunts.' (John)

'Waking up beside the person I married twenty years ago and realising I was more in love than ever.' (Patrice)

'Being a minister of communion and the awesome significance of what I was doing suddenly dawning on me.' (Catherine)

Think of a loving moment when you saw someone really 'shine'

In a different light

While waiting at an inner city bus stop I became aware of a man standing on the kerb side. He was swaying and I was afraid for his safety. He could easily have over balanced and fallen onto the busy road in front of us.

After wondering about this man and his condition for 5 minutes, I was taken by surprise as he turned to those of us sitting in the bus shelter and announced: 'The bus is coming.' He had been leaning forward, all this time, so as to be of help to us!

When I thanked him he seemed very pleased with himself and happy that his small service was acknowledged. I think he may have had a mild intellectual disability. He was quite inoffensive, just 'different'. Yet I had been through all those judgmental phases: Was he drunk? Was he a drifter? Didn't he know how to cross the road? Was he dangerous? It had never occurred to me that he was just being helpful. (Jill)

Think...Talk

Describe a situation where your perspective was transformed by a loving word, a caring action, a glimpse of truth.



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

A publication of
The Story Source, © 1992-2002.

www.TeresaPirola.net