

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

David: God's choice. 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13  
Darkness once, now you are light! Ephesians 5:8-14  
Jesus and the blind man: sight restored, faith instilled. John 9:1-41

## Next week:

The raising of Lazarus.  
Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11;  
John 11:1-45

## In a nutshell

In today's Gospel Jesus heals a blind man whose restored sight is accompanied by even more powerful vision: the vision of faith. This healing contrasts with the blindness of some of the Pharisees who, caught up in their skepticism and suspicion, cannot acknowledge the healing power of God exhibited before their very eyes.



## Facing Facts

*The greatest blindness is not the loss of physical sight but failure to face up to the truth.*

When Kris married Peter, Friday nights were 'his' nights. Friday was the night he would really 'relax' at the end of a busy week. He was always quiet on Saturday morning after 'a few drinks' the previous night. Ten years and three children later, Friday nights became Saturday and Sunday as well. Social gatherings would usually end with Kris helping him into the car and driving home. To keep Peter home, she started to drink with him. Soon she found herself drinking even when he wasn't home. Arguments became more frequent. To escape the tensions the children spent most of their free time away from home.

One day, Kris' father came over to repair the washing machine. While he was there he sorted out the rubbish for the recycling bin. His comment afterwards chilled her: 'You'll have to stop that young son of yours scrounging around. I threw

out four whisky bottles today.'

After he had left, Kris looked up the phone number of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## A blind man with sight

Kevin, an elderly blind man in our neighbourhood, heard an appeal for volunteers to operate the phone lines for a street ministry that reaches out to the homeless youth. Kevin volunteered and now spends each Friday talking to young people in crisis or others who just need to chat. His blindness actually gives him an edge - with his sensitive hearing he has come to know each of the voices of the youth who ring in.

*This week: Pray for a 'God's-eye' view of your life.*

## Blind spots

'I would like to see more open-mindedness in society, because open-mindedness brings open-heartedness and acceptance. Society judges us by what we wear. A woman dressed up really well gets served and waited on straight away. Me, I wear jeans and get judged.' (Jane, 15)

'Once I didn't like Asians, but I do now. I helped rescue an injured Asian man at a road accident and that made me see that we all share the same humanity... and we all suffer.' (Greg, 17)

'A lot of my friends seem to be "marking time" with their children. They can't wait to get them off their hands and have time for themselves. But I think

that's a really sad attitude. I know parenthood is hard work (I have five young ones of my own), but it's also such a treasured opportunity. I'd like to say to parents: try to enjoy your children. This time spent with them in their unique stage of their development will never come again. As the saying goes: Look for happiness - it's usually right in front of you.' (Lisa)



## Think...Talk

Talk about some of the 'blindspots'

- in society;
- in your own life.

Where might your vision be impaired?

Who can help heal you?

What step will you take this week towards healing and wholeness?



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

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