

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

A true shepherd. Ezek 34:11-12,15-17
So that God may be in all. 1 Cor 15:20-26,28
How have you served? Mt 25:31-46

Next week:

First Sunday of Advent.
Is 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8;
1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

In a nutshell

Today's parable speaks of identifying people by their virtue. God's constant concern for the poor is felt through the actions of Jesus' disciples. While 'the good' reach out to others, 'the bad' cry out in supposed ignorance. Kindness, compassion generosity of heart - these are the signs of God's eternal kingdom. Love is the final word.



Love in action

We were walking back to the van. Between us we supported an old man as he struggled to walk. He was weak and cold and we were taking him to the St Vincent de Paul hostel. It was all part of being a volunteer with Night Patrol.

As we reached the van the old man stopped and looked me in the eye. 'Why do you do this?' he asked. I was caught by surprise. 'To help you,' I stuttered. 'You help me, but why do you do this?'" the man repeated. 'We don't want to see you out here in the cold,' my co-worker piped up. 'You do good, so someone else will believe in good,' announced the old man. Then he began to mutter incoherently.

Later, as I walked home in the early hours of the morning, I thought about the old man's question. Why do I do this? Why do I spend one night of my week to be with people who have no food or shelter?

I thought of my friends who came with me. I thought of the

prayer we had prayed under our special tree before we set out on the night's rounds. 'When you do this for the least...you do it for me.' I remembered the look on the faces of the men who ate the simple sandwiches we gave them. This food was their lifeline. In a way, being there for them allowed me to be touched by the power and mystery of God's goodness; the same goodness of which the old man had spoken so eloquently. (Vic)

Think . Talk . Pray

How can you bring justice to an unjust situation? Be ready to act at the prompting of the Spirit.

'Your kingdom come, your will be done...' Ponder these words when you next pray the Our Father.

From the mouth of babes

My children have a CD of Christian songs, one which takes up the theme of Christ's kingship with the chorus 'Jesus is the boss'. One day I was standing in the backyard, talking with the builder who was working on our house. The kids were playing nearby. A scuffle broke out between my two young sons. Suddenly six year old Christopher came running over. 'Mum!' he said indignantly. 'Nathaniel thinks he's the boss of everyone. But he's not! Jesus is the boss!' The builder looked at him quizzically, then turned to me: 'Did he just say what I think he said?' (FP)



church below the rooftops

Big Ride for a Big Need

Joan, a 69 year old religious sister, took part in a fundraising event - a 600 km bike ride from Canowindra to Bega - to help buy supplies for a medical clinic in Dili, East Timor.

Joan is a slight woman with a ready smile. 'We had headwind and freezing rain most of the way,' she said. 'There was only one night where the temperature rose above zero. I thought of giving up many times during the eight days, but the thought of those poor people in East Timor drove me on.'

[14 Nov 1999]



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

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

www.TeresaPirola.net