

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

The Word of God is fruitful. Is 55:10-11  
We yearn for the fullness of God's glory. Rom 8:18-23  
Listen, if you have ears! Mt 13:1-23

## Next week: Another parable.

Wisdom 12:13,16-19;  
Romans 8:26-27;  
Matthew 13:24-43

## In a nutshell

The Word of God demands a response from the listener. The rocks, thorns, and bad soil in today's Gospel represent the obstacles and distractions that prevent people from responding to the Good News. Those who accept God's Word into their hearts are like good soil yielding an abundant harvest.



## Mrs Lawrence

*The story of a loving woman who planted seeds of faith and love in the life of a child.*

I have always been a fairly outgoing sort of person. At three years of age I wandered into the house next door, parked myself on a kitchen stool and introduced myself to Mrs Lawrence, the surprised neighbour!

Mrs Lawrence was a widow whose husband had died of cancer after one year of marriage. She 'took' to me and for the next 13 years, I would visit her every day. Sitting on that same kitchen stool, we would have marvellous chats. Even today I can still picture that kitchen and the unusual ornaments on the shelf: sea shells inscribed with bible stories in tiny writing. It was Mrs Lawrence who taught me how to cook, sew, crochet, and argue. I recall, too, her enormous 'magical' garden where I lived many a childhood fantasy. She was always there for me...unconditionally.

And so it was until age 15 when Mrs Lawrence had to have an 'ear operation'. This was adult-speak for

'breast cancer'. Mrs Lawrence never returned from hospital and I lost a great friend without ever saying goodbye. I had hoped to be able to keep the kitchen stool that I had sat on every day, but it was not to be.

It wasn't until I was well into my thirties that my mother brought out of the cupboard some things Mrs Lawrence had left her. I couldn't believe my eyes! Among them were the sea shells with tiny writing that had been part of the kitchen scene so familiar in my memories. The sight of the shells was like going back 30 years, sitting at the kitchen bench again and sharing life stories in an atmosphere of love. (Margy)

*Think about it: Does a visitor walking into my home sense an atmosphere of love?*

## A loyal reader

At eleven o'clock on Friday evening the presbytery received a phone call from Hong Kong. It was a parishioner on our Reader's Roster. His firm had sent him away on urgent business and in the rush of getting away he had forgotten to tell us that he wouldn't be able to take his turn reading at Mass on Sunday!

We appreciated this man's commitment and courtesy - qualities that give strength to our parish.' (JS)

## Life Lesson

Teaching six graders can be a challenge. Today one of my students dumped his 'girlfriend'. He was brutal about it. Told everyone she was ugly and he didn't like her any more. She was really upset. I think once I would have dismissed the

whole thing as 'kids just being kids'. But having had the experience, as an adult male, of being dumped by my girlfriend it occurred to me that now is the time that patterns are laid and lessons learned.

So I held back Mr Casanova after school and we had a little 'man-to-man' talk about how you're supposed to treat people with respect. (Troy)



## Think...Talk

Reflect on today's parable. In the garden of life, where are you trying to 'grow'? Among rocks, thorns... or in good soil? What are some of rocks, thorns, weeds and shallow soils that hinder your capacity to live a Christian life?

## Pray...Act

God of Life, may we always plant seeds of love so that others may reap where we sow. Amen.

Look over your plans for your week.

- What weeds can be pulled out?
- What good soil can be nurtured?



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

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