

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

Solomon's big ask. 1 Kings 3:5-14  
Called to be true images of the Son. Romans 8:28-31  
The kingdom of God: real treasure. Matthew 13:44-52

## Next week:

Five loaves, two fish.  
Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:31-39;  
Matthew 14:13-21.

## In a nutshell

Central to discipleship is the joyful discovery of Jesus. But there is a cost attached. The kingdom of God is a priceless treasure for which a person is required to 'give all'. For the community for whom this gospel was written, many members had already paid with their lives. What must I give up in order to make way for the greatest treasure?



## Gospel Echoes

*Do you know someone who has 'sold everything' for their greatest treasure? Listen carefully and you'll hear echoes of today's Gospel in the lives of people around you...*

## Dinner time

'Growing up I remember that my father always came home from work in time for dinner. Years later I learnt that this was a deliberate decision on his part: that no matter how busy he was at work, he would always put the family before the job.' (Anna)

## TV chatter

'I have become more sensitised to the amount of meaningless "chatter" that clutters our lives. I'm going to sell my TV and cut back my newspaper intake to Saturdays only. I want to create a better environment for "listening" - to my loved ones, to God - to what's really important in life.' (Helen)

## Excuse the mess

'When we were first married I used to get so uptight if an unexpected visitor called in and the house was messy. But as the children came along I learned to relax and accept that to a certain extent mess and chaos are a healthy part of life. Giving life brings more joy than an immaculate house.' (DH)

## Family treasure

'A loving family: there's nothing more important. Who cares about money and status. They're going to ask me to work over the holiday break, but I don't care if I don't get the promotion - I'm heading home to be with my family.' (TR)

## Re-scheduling

'I recognise it's important to make space for God in my day. The problem is, I usually make God fit around my plans. I'm trying to alter that habit so that each day I set aside some prayer time and then fit my plans around that.' (HG)

## Study habits

'Today I was talking to a man who has discovered God in his life - so much so that he has deferred from his psychology degree in order to take up theology instead.' (Donna)

## Think...Talk

- Who/what is your 'greatest treasure'?
- Talk about the treasure of faith and faith family. Why do you treasure them?
- How have you prioritised this treasure?
- What has it 'cost' you?

## We pray:

- For renewed appreciation of the gift of faith.
- For single-heartedness for the Gospel.
- For the grace of trust.



## church below the rooftops

*The sacrifices of parenthood are often detected in the 'little' things...*

## Parenthood

'Being a parent challenges your priorities. It involves giving up a lot of what YOU want; including your dreams of rearing the perfect child.

I have learned that having a showdown with your two-year-old about taking his bath is not nearly as important as reading him his bedtime story. And that trying to reason with a screaming child who insists on wearing yesterday's T-shirt is not nearly as important as getting him to mum's place in a happy frame of mind.

So what if he's a bit grubby on some nights, or if he wears the same T-shirt three days running? More important than a spotless child is a child who feels loved.' (FP)



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

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