

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Elijah listens and waits. 1 Kings 19:9-18
Paul's anguish. Romans 9:1-5
A sinking start, yet Peter steps out in faith.
Matthew 14:22-33

Next week:

A persistent woman.
Isaiah 56:1-8; Romans 11:13-32;
Matthew 15:21-28

In a nutshell

In life's tempestuous seas we always have the calming presence of Jesus. Although at times it may appear to us that he is absent, we are asked to trust that he is there. Like Peter, we can discover that even the 'impossible' is possible when we step out in faith. This week, pray for the grace of trust in the Lord.



Beyond Fear

When I was 16 weeks pregnant, my husband and I found out that our baby had a form of neural tube defect. Our doctor at that time told us that our baby would not survive the full term of the pregnancy and if by some miracle did survive would have severe physical and mental disabilities. His solution - abortion - or, as it was politely put, 'termination'. I couldn't get out of his surgery fast enough.

Initially Robert and I were grief stricken. We hugged each other, cried with each other, talked about what we were feeling, which was predominantly fear. Could we handle what lay ahead? We felt isolated from everyone, at times even each other, yet we were closer to each other than we'd ever been.

Our beautiful little boy, Jacob, is now nearly six months old. Jacob was born with only one eye, one ear, a cleft palate and hair lip and major heart problems, but thanks to God, all we really noticed was that his hair was red! That surprised us more than anything else and was

the cause of much joy and laughter at the birth.

Jacob is our inspiration and joy. We have never seen a more beautiful baby and if we only kiss him a million times a day, it is never enough. Our little angel is definitely not brain dead, he is an alert little baby. We take each day as it comes and treasure each moment that we have. We marvel at the things he does that other parents may take for granted. We place Jacob in God's generous, yet strong hands.

It is with great thanks to God that I have been so blessed with the gifts of an amazing courageous husband, a beautiful little boy, wonderful family and friends. Thank you to all who have prayed for us. (Carmel)

Courage!

The first time I volunteered as a scripture teacher, I was given Class F, Year 9 in the local state high school. I was 25, inexperienced and scared! I was afraid of losing control of the class. I was afraid of failing in my task. I was afraid of a lot of things. In my anxiety I turned to Jesus in prayer. Gradually my focus began to change. My thoughts became less preoccupied with myself and more focussed on the students. A phrase kept recurring within: *The most important thing is to love them.* In this realisation I experienced a quiet, reassuring strength and peace.

Think...Talk...Act

- Describe a time when you experienced the 'calm' of Christ amidst tumultuous circumstances?
- How do you respond when Christ seems 'absent'?

- Does today's Gospel reassure or challenge you in your faith?
- What action taken this week would be a positive step in your life as a Christian? Take it!



church below the rooftops

Grappling with fear

I work in a cut-throat environment where, given the reign of politics over ethics, the idea of being a 'gospel witness' is not just a nice idea but a daily challenge for me. Of course, if the issues were black and white, if justice was clearly distinguishable from evil then being a courageous Christian would be a lot easier. But life is never that simple. The issues are subtle and complex and I can never be totally sure.... What if I misjudge? What if I challenge what I think to be a dishonest scheme only to find I am wrong, or that my claims can't be proven? These people play hard and nasty. They take no prisoners. I could lose my job. It would be so much easier just to keep my mouth shut and go with the flow... (NN)



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

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