

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

What will the Lord find in his vineyard? Is 5:1-7
A recipe for peace. Phil 4:6-9
A parable about the way we use God's gifts. Mt 21:33-43

Next week:

A wedding feast with a difference. Is 25:6-10;
Phil 4:12-14,19-20;

In a nutshell

The story of the uncooperative tenants acts as a warning to complacent religiosity. True faith involves personal commitment, not just 'card-carrying' religious membership. The context in which today's Gospel was written was the growing acceptance of the Christian message among the Gentiles.



Powerful examples of Christ-like love can be found in everyday life, in all sorts of people, not just those who show explicit signs of religious observance.

Fruitful lives

My parents have the most extraordinary neighbour. James has lived in the same block of flats for about seventeen years. He lives on an invalid pension, but several times a week he goes to a nearby hospital and works as a volunteer. In recent years my mother had become increasingly frail. Without fuss, James made all the arrangements for them to transfer to his downstairs flat, and he moved upstairs.

Over the past few months he has been such a 'good samaritan' to my parents. With my mother's health clearly failing, James made sure that my parents had what they needed. It was never a trouble to get food or medicines, or to get her to doctor's appointments. Without being intrusive, James was just always there as a steady back-up.

Eventually my mother had to be

placed in a hospice. James drove my father there daily. And he was with us when my mother died. His tears said it all: he genuinely loved this elderly, frail couple. Now he keeps an eye out for my Dad. Each evening he comes down for half an hour and they have a quiet drink together.

I have no idea what James really believes, but when I look at him, I think of that phrase: 'See how these Christians love one another.' (Vicki)

Describe a life experience which has caused you to think more deeply about your life and faith.

Life lessons

When I was a boy I was given no encouragement to study. I read only one book in my entire school life and I left school as soon as I could. Years later I put myself through night school and university and became a teacher. This personal journey took a great deal of self-motivation and has made me sensitive to the importance of making the most of one's gifts and opportunities. At times it is painful to see talent underutilised. As I watch my own teenage children struggle to apply themselves to their studies I am offered yet another challenge to be creative and loving. (Gary)

Life lesson

A story about appreciating God's gifts:

Some weeks ago I moved interstate to take up a new job. The job is going well, but I wasn't prepared for the isolation I sometimes feel. Back home life was full of family and friends. The

phone would always ring and there was always something to do on the weekends. I took all that support for granted.

The move has awakened me to God's great gifts of family and friends; the importance of keeping in touch with loved ones and not letting relationships die of attrition.

It also reminds me to offer friendship to others who, for whatever reason, find themselves isolated. (Diane)



Think . Talk

In what ways do you find yourself complacent about your life? Describe a time you had a 'wake up' call in your faith. What happened to make you appreciate afresh the gift of faith and faith family?

Pray . Act

Lord, keep my love for you alive, fresh and sensitive to the promptings of your Spirit. Amen.

This week, do something 'extra' that affirms your commitment to love God and the people with whom you share your life.



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

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