

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

The Lord will prepare a feast for his people. Is 25:6-10  
With God I am ready for anything, anywhere.  
Phil 4:12-14,19-20  
An unusual guest list. Mt 22:1-14

## Next week:

Give to God what belongs to  
God. Is 45:1,4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5;  
Mt 22:15-21

## In a nutshell

The wedding banquet is an important biblical image to describe the glory of God's kingdom. Today's Gospel challenges the complacency of believers. God's grace is always a free invitation, experienced in countless ways, great and small, each day of our lives. How willing is our response?



*A story about not taking God's gifts for granted.*

## Missing you

My mother had gone to visit her sister for two weeks. Dad was at home on his own. My wife Mary and I decided to pay him a visit. Dad was getting on in years and we wanted to check he was okay. 'I'd love to see you!' was his response to my phone call. 'Can you come around six o'clock on Saturday?' 'Sure,' I replied. 'Perhaps we can take you out for dinner.'

When we arrived on Saturday, we were puzzled to find Dad busy in the kitchen. 'Wait in the living room' was the strict instruction we were given. A few minutes later he emerged with a white napkin draped over his arm. With a sweeping gesture he invited us into the dining room. A simple, attractive table setting greeted us. The room was filled with gentle music and the aroma of Italian cooking. We chuckled with delight.

'Now sit down and I will bring you the appetisers,' said Dad, enjoying our surprise. 'I've been

wanting to cook this meal for years. I'm trying it out on you two before I do a special dinner for your mother when she returns. I want it to be just perfect.' Then, looking at me with an added note of seriousness, 'Don't take Mary for granted, Jim.'

Mary glanced at me with that 'Your father is such a wise man' expression. It was a special evening and I felt incredibly blessed to be part of his expression of love and yearning for my mother; a reminder that romance is not just for young newly weds! (Jim)

*Do something special for a relationship that might be taken for granted.*

## A small opportunity. A big response.

It was nearing peak hour and I was driving home the back way, hoping for a good run. The traffic, however, was particularly heavy and the delays were becoming more and more frustrating. A pedestrian stepped out onto a crossing. She was a high school student. As she walked in front of the oncoming car she graciously nodded her head towards the driver. Then she turned and gave me such a winning smile. That small gesture of thanks made such a difference; it 'melted' my frustration, transforming the rest of the journey home. (JMS)

## Invitation...response

'Hey Dad, I'm playing touch footy tonight.' It was Terry, our seventeen year old, calling out from the kitchen. 'I might come and see you play,' I said, expecting a half-hearted reply.

'That'd be great,' said Terry as he headed off to warm up for the game. His enthusiasm caught me off guard and got me thinking about some of the painful complexities of raising teenagers. The 'keep away' years of early high school had meant I had never felt welcome on the sideline of the sports oval. So conditioned was I to this dynamic that I had almost missed the clue that something had shifted.

I now have a treasured memory of Terry streaming down the sideline in full flight as he scored one of his team's rare tries. A memory that also scores us a point as father and son. (Colin)



## Think . Talk

In what ways have you been invited into a deeper relationship with God, your family, your faith family? In what ways have you been the bearer of such an invitation to somebody else?

## Pray

Father, keep my eyes, ears, heart tuned in to your voice and ready to respond. Amen.



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

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