

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Wisdom is found by those who seek her. Wis 6:12-16
Be sure of the resurrection. 1 Thes 4:13-18
Stay awake, be ready for the Lord's coming. Mt 25:1-13

Next week:

Parable of the talents.
Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31;
1Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel of the ten bridesmaids draws our attention to the importance of vigilance in the life of the Christian. We await the end time when Christ will come again in glory. This doesn't mean we passively 'kill time.' We are called to active hope and participation in the renewal of the world in Christ.



The decisions we make today are shaping our tomorrow. A number of 18-20 year olds were asked to reflect on this theme. Here are some of the stories they shared.

The future starts now

Looking back at the last three years of my life I often wonder if I have made the wisest choices. My boyfriend and I have been going together for three years. In a mutual decision we have decided to break up, yet the relationship lingers... 'on' again, 'off' again. It's never quite over.

What I love about my (nearly) ex-boyfriend is his carefree approach to life. I am much more goal-oriented. But I also worry about his escapist tendencies, especially when he uses 'recreational' drugs. It's so easy to just keep going back to each other, but my head tells me that if we are both to grow and create a lifegiving future, we must make a clear choice and part ways for good. I used to always 'follow my heart', but in this case I can see I need to follow my head. (Cathy)

Leanne is an eighteen year old woman who is coming to terms with the fact that in a few months she will give birth to her own child. Through her pregnancy Leanne's life has taken a dramatic turn - a direction she wasn't prepared for, but which she is fast learning to deal with. 'It's frustrating and scary knowing that you have to give up your own life for somebody else,' says Leanne. 'I see my friends going out and having a good time whereas I can't, especially as I'm trying to save money for when the baby arrives. Sometimes it's a financial struggle to put petrol in the car. I feel as if I have needed to mature more quickly than I may have liked, but I know it's important to my child.'

Do I think of my future in terms of God's desires and vision for my life?

Small steps in friendship go a long way

I've known my friend, Leonie, since I was in kindergarten. We were the best of friends in Year 4 but then she had to move away with her parents. We promised to write to each other and we have. Now we are both at university and still keep in contact through letters. Sometimes I think about all those little words on paper which have sustained our friendship for so many years! I'm glad I made the effort to pick up the pen or turn on the computer and write. (Anne)

Inspiration

A few months ago, I was having serious doubts about continuing with my university course

(Bachelor of Education - Primary), but all my friends and family kept encouraging me to just give it a go and defer judgment until I had done some 'prac' teaching.

I'm so glad I did because I met the most inspiring teacher at the school I was assigned to. She was very knowledgeable and had such a great attitude to life and children. If it wasn't for her inspiration I might have given up my plans to be a teacher. But now I believe I have made the best career choice.

It's amazing how much we can influence each other in life by our attitudes and actions. (AR)



Think . Talk

Think about the direction you want your life and your faith to take. Where do you want to be in five years? Ten years? By the end of your life? Who can help you to get there?

Pray. Act

Lord, help us to make choices which lead me towards you. Amen.
What decision are you postponing which needs to be made now?
Pray it, share it,
do it!



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

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