

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Jeremiah: The Lord is at my side. Jer 20:10-13;
Adam fell. Jesus saves. Rom 5:12-15;
Do not fear. Trust in Christ. Mt 10:26-33.

Next week:

In the footsteps of Jesus.
2 Kgs 4:8-11,14-16;
Rom 6:3-4,8-11; Mt 10:37-42.

In a nutshell

The early Christians knew all too well that following Jesus involved suffering and persecution. The words of Matthew's Gospel sustained them as they do Christians today: Do not fear, God will never leave us. We cannot see the whole picture of God's plan for our lives, but we trust that one day all will be clear. And we will rejoice!



What is hidden will become clear...

My children were asking their grandfather (my father) what it was like growing up when he was a boy. At first they covered the predictable areas: Where did you live? What was it like going to school? Then suddenly the conversation went to another level.

'Did your Mum and Dad love you?' asked Ben. Aged nine going on twenty-nine, Ben is the deep thinker of the family.

'They never told me they loved me,' came the reply. 'They never needed to. I just always knew they did.'

I had heard Dad express this same thought on other occasions. I had wondered about it but never voiced my questions aloud. Ben, however, had other ideas.

'What do you mean, Grandpa?' he asked. 'That doesn't make sense to me. How can you really be sure that someone loves you unless they say it?'

Dad floundered, unsettled by the wisdom of his nine year old

grandson. I instinctively grasped the opportunity.

'Dad, you often tell us about your parents not putting their love into words,' I said gently. 'Is there something you're trying to say to us?' He cleared his throat a few times.

'I guess there is,' he said with great honesty. Then, out of the pause that followed: 'What I'm really saying is: I love you.'

What had begun as a spontaneous family chat had turned into a blessed turning point in my relationship with my father. That my father cared for me, loved me, I had never doubted. But what a gift and confirmation to have that love spoken aloud after all these years. (Kathy)

Describe a moment when you caught a clear glimpse of a partly hidden truth.

The extraordinary in the ordinary

St Therese of Lisieux shares:

'The Doctor of doctors teaches us without the sound of words. I have never heard Him speak, and yet I know He is within my soul. Every moment He is guiding and inspiring me, and, just at the moment I need them, 'lights' till then unseen are granted me. Most often it is not at prayer that they come but while I go about my daily duties.'

(Source: *The Story of a Soul*)

What precious 'lessons in faith' have you learnt over the years?

Write these down in a love letter to your children. Ask that the letter be passed on to their children as well.



church below the rooftops

The picture we can't see

'Be kind to people. Everyone is in a battle.' So said the verse in the book I was reading. It reminded me of this story from my teaching years many years ago...

I was teaching a difficult Year 7 class. I was a young English teacher, fresh out of university and terribly inexperienced. One day I reprimanded a student named Jane. 'Your work is deteriorating,' I said. The next day, the headmistress called me to her office. With her was one very angry mother accusing me of using abusive language against her daughter. It was Jane's mother. 'She called my daughter "deteriorating"', said the angry mother. Not understanding the word's meaning, she had jumped to conclusions. When it was explained to her, the woman's immediate response was to turn on her daughter. 'If your work's no good, I'll kill ya!' she shouted.

I came away from the incident quite shaken and with a greater awareness of the challenges facing Jane each day, even before she stepped into my classroom. (MP)



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