

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

The Lord brings forth fruit. Isa 55:10-11;
Creation awaits the coming glory. Rom 8:18-23;
Listen, anyone who has ears! Mt 13:1-23

Next week:

Another parable from Jesus.
Wis 12:13,16-19; Rom 8:26-27;
Mt 13:24-43.

In a nutshell

Today's parable is about responsiveness to God's word. Many heard the message of Jesus. Many even got excited about it. But not all understood the consequences of the message or persisted with its demands. May we listen intently to God throughout our lives, sink roots deeply into rich soil and grow to maturity of faith.



Sowing seeds

For many years Maria and John were involved in the engaged couples' program in their parish. Each year they would welcome a group of five or six couples into their home and, over a period of six weeks, would work through an intensive program of preparation for marriage. It was a commitment. Finding a sequence of six free Sunday evenings was never easy. Their children generously assisted by vacating the living room (and the TV!) for these evenings. Sometimes the young couples were not convinced of the importance of marriage preparation. With each session, however, the sense of community developed, as did the joy of celebrating with each couple on their special day.

And after the wedding? Well, some ongoing contact, the sharing of photos, an occasional phone call or card, but then the busyness of life took over.

Maria and John used to wonder from time to time how 'their couples' were faring. Were they

happy? Had they realised some of their hopes together? Had the preparation course had any impact at all? Time passed. Maria and John moved away to another part of the city. They adjusted to life in a new parish community.

This year, Maria signed up to be a prayer volunteer for the First Communion Group. She received a note in the mail detailing the name of the young person whom she was to 'sponsor'. Included was a special note from the sacramental coordinator. 'Dear Maria. This family has specially requested that both you and John might be Fiona's prayer companion. For, ten years ago, you were the host couple for the parent's marriage preparation course. They have never forgotten your hospitality, your kindness and the inspiration you gave them!'

We don't always see the fruits of what we sow. Trust in the Lord of the harvest!

Overheard

I was watching over my children in the playground as they negotiated with the resident playground bully. I heard their opponent call them some rather rude names.

'It's not nice to call people names,' my six year old responded indignantly.

'Yeah,' growled my four year old. 'We should share with other kids!'

I found myself smiling at their choice for firm, respectful words over insults and fisty-cuffs. They were putting into practice the values I tried so hard to instill at home. I was witnessing the fragile first shoots of the seeds I had planted. (CH)



church below the rooftops

Faithful to the Word

As I was sorting out my mother's things shortly after her death, I came across her bible. That it was a well-worn treasure did not surprise me. Mum had always been a person of deep faith and prayer. But I didn't expect all the little momentos which fell out of the cover and the pages as I picked up the book. There were precious letters written to her by friends, family photos, little prayers and stories cut out of church bulletins, ordination cards of priests who had touched her life, a drawing by her grandchild, and so on. The collection traced her life's journey over a number of decades. How fitting that I should discover it by opening the Word of God. Our own little stories are all part of the 'big story' of faith. (Emma)

Think...Talk

Think back over your life:
What seeds have you sown?
What life and love have you harvested?

In what ways are you still patiently waiting to see the fruits of your efforts?



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

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