

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

The wisdom of Solomon. 1 Kg 3:5,7-12;
God has called us. Rom 8:28-30;
Jesus continues to speak in parables. Mt 13:44-52.

Next week:

Miracle of the loaves and fishes.
Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35,37-39;
Mt 14:13-21.

In a nutshell

Today's Gospel likens the gift of Christian faith to a priceless treasure. It is a gift upon which the Christian's whole life depends. For those who live in the Spirit, the constant challenge is to keep Christ at the centre of their focus and to look at all things from the perspective of faith.



House-hunting

My friends, Shane and Bronwyn, began looking to buy their first home. They had been married two years and Bronwyn was pregnant with their first child. They didn't have much of a deposit, but they knew they had to get a loan and buy a house now, before Bronwyn stopped working. Although Shane earned enough to pay off the loan, his employment history wouldn't be stable enough to get a loan on his own. So the race was on: to find a home for under \$110,000, and find it fast.

Now, \$110,000 wouldn't buy a double garage in some parts, but Shane and Bronwyn had a chance of finding a two bedroom house in the area they had chosen. They began praying as they hunted. They searched and searched and things weren't looking good. We all began praying for them too. Finally, they found their house: \$108,000!

'God helped us get this house!' they said happily when they told me the news. Mmm. Interesting. How did God exactly help them, I

wondered. I mean, it's not like God made a house appear out of thin air. It seemed more like a coincidence that they had found the house in the right place, at the right time, at the right price. And it wasn't exactly a palace. Renovations were needed.

Then I realised my blindness. Why, God was clearly in this couple's search. God was in their perseverance. They had kept up their search long after I would have given up. God was in their joy and gratitude. Even the thought of renovations didn't faze them. The pressure of the search had brought them closer together, not ripped them apart. God had been there all along, helping them in their patience, their hope, their confidence and their love for each other. This was a richly blessed couple indeed. (JM)

With faith we are richer than we ever thought possible.

Faith - it gets you through the day!

Richard's job involves interviewing unemployed people who are trying to find work. He is routinely faced with situations of sadness and desperation. 'People cry, people abuse you... It can be a really depressing scene,' he tells me. 'There are days when you come away ragged.'

Now, Richard is one of the most uplifting people I know. So how does he keep his sense of humour and hope? I ask him. 'My faith,' he shoots back without a moment's hesitation. 'And sport,' he adds. (Rich plays handball at a national level.) Great gifts indeed! (TP)



church below the rooftops

Pearl of great price

I was having lunch with Mum and Dad on the day of their 45th wedding anniversary. I asked them what was the 'secret' of staying in love all those years. Among the different responses they gave, they both mentioned one thing: 'Having God as the third person in our marriage.' Mum and Dad have prayed together every night since they were engaged at the age of eighteen and twenty. (VC)

Today: Learn from the wise. Ask an older married couple their 'secret' to staying in love.

Think...Talk

- What does the gift of faith mean to you?
- How would you describe your greatest treasure?
- How do you teach your children to treasure God's gifts to them?

Pray...

For the eyes to recognise the hand of God in our lives, we pray to the Lord.



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

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