

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Her works tell her praises. Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
Stay wide awake. 1 Thes 5:1-6
Faithful in all things. Mt 25:14-30

Next Week:

Christ the King
Ezek 34:11-12,15-17; 1 Cor
15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46

In a nutshell

The Christian community is richly endowed with Spirit-filled gifts and charisms. These are not ornaments to be admired but energies to be put to work! Today's parable of the talents reminds us that to step out and use our gifts is to risk rejection and persecution. But if we don't step out, we will not mature in the life of the Spirit.



Gifts for God

In the neighbourhood...

In the supermarket today I was introduced to a married couple in their sixties whose family life has been one heartache after another. One child died as a baby. Another child was born deaf and with mental disabilities. Now in his forties, he is reliant on his parents for so many things, which they undertake with love and grace. Another son suffers from schizophrenia and a drug problem, while two others are also into drugs. The parents are sensible, loving people. They cannot fathom what happened to their children. In spite of this, they do not sit around bemoaning their lot. They go out of their way to involve themselves in any organization that is helping young people cope with drugs and psychological illness. (NM)

In the workplace...

As a young man John had launched himself into a career in the money market in the CBD where he spent twenty years or so. Over that

period he advanced so steadily that he seemed unstoppable in his progress.

One day, in a pensive moment, he began to wonder whether he was getting the job satisfaction he was looking for deep down. His doubt persisted. Eventually he talked through the issue with his wife. She encouraged him to follow the different path he was envisaging. Some of his professional colleagues were also supportive. Others thought he was crazy. What was he thinking of doing? Seeking employment in a Christian non-profit charitable organisation, specifically in administration where his professional expertise could be used to advantage.

After approaching some such organisations he found one where his motives were appreciated and his expertise valued. And the outcome? John tells me that he and his family are happier now, despite his drop in income. (PK)

Stepping out!

The students on retreat in their final year of schooling were given opportunities to express their ideas and hopes, and the adult leaders accompanying them worked hard to create an atmosphere that would encourage openness and honesty. One young woman said, 'I want to do something with my life that makes a difference. I want my contribution to be noticed, maybe written about in a book...'

Having one's name in a book isn't always a good thing, but somehow I feel that Jennifer will do something wonderful with her life. (Tracey)



church below the rooftops

Go Brazil!

In the jubilation that followed the fulltime whistle at the 2002 World Cup I was amazed and delighted to see the entire Brazilian team kneeling in prayer and individual team members wearing 'I belong to Jesus' T-shirts!

How refreshing to see an unabashed, public display of Christian faith, by world-class sportsmen, before the eyes of the world's peoples. Now that's using your gifts to give glory to God! (Tony)

How to feel like a millionaire

At the end of each day, stop and ask yourself:

- What is one God-given blessing I have received today?
- How was I a blessing to another during the course of this day?
- Praise God for this abundance of riches, received and spent!



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

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