

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

A faithful people. Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13
Boast about the Lord. 1 Cor 1:26-31
Blessed are the poor in spirit. Mt 5:1-12

Next Week:

Light to the world!
Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5;
Mt 5:13-16

In a nutshell

Happy are the poor in spirit...

The beatitudes calls us to value human virtue over material possessions, to esteem inner goodness over external show. Drawing from the depths of his Jewish tradition, Jesus teaches the people in a radical way. The beatitudes can sound 'sweet' until we internalise their true power.



Rich in the sight of God...

A woman of dignity

A priest shares this story from his home visitations:

A frail, elderly lady, still recovering from life-saving surgery, was sitting in a room by herself on a well worn settee. This was her temporary accommodation, and it was filthy. And yet she presented herself in a dignified manner, neatly dressed, a model of serenity, easily rising above her surroundings. Her faith, peace of soul and evident goodness shone out of her all the more splendidly.

Nothing in the surrounding squalor could dampen the joy and gratitude she expressed and radiated as she received the sacraments. (PK)

A just man

I was with my brother today. He works in a profession which is not highly paid and he was talking about the strike which was being called for by his union.

'You know,' said my brother, who

is married with six children. 'I don't really want to go on strike for a pay rise. Look, my family gets by. We're not rich, but we're a lot better off than so many other people in the world.'

Now, I could think of all sorts of justifications for an increase in pay. And they all make sense from a certain perspective. But I think my brother was, in his quiet way, calling into question the whole economics-driven mindset so ingrained in our society.

Until we start to think differently, in terms of 'justice-for-all' rather than 'more-money-for-me', how will our world ever change for the better? (PG)

Blessed are the gentle

My window faces onto a small grassy patch at our unit block. It is a favourite place for the children in the units to play. In one corner there is a tree overhanging in such a way as to form a small natural cubby space.

Every so often a little six-year old, a natural extrovert, comes out with her small chair, places it in this corner, and sits quietly all by herself. She stays there for quite some time. It seems as though she is thinking, sometimes she sings softly, other times she leans back in the chair and closes her eyes. She does not like being disturbed by the others.

One day I talked to her about it. She said that she just likes 'quiet time'. (JMS)



In our home...

When our children were growing up they always received a dollar from their Dad when they brought home a good school report. The reports would often have comments like 'tries hard', 'a pleasure to teach', 'has shown improvement' or 'helpful'. My husband paid less attention to the grades given to each child than to the evidence that they were always giving their best, and I can't remember a report that wasn't considered worthy of praise and, of course, that dollar reward. (AK)

Prayerfully read the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12).

Who are the 'blessed' in your midst?

How can we teach our children to value gospel virtues over material possessions, inner goodness over external show? Enlist the practical ideas of friends and family, older siblings and single people as well as parents and grandparents.



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

A publication of
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