

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

God creates man and woman. Genesis 2:18-24
We are sanctified. Hebrews 2:9-11
What God has joined, no one must divide. Mark 10:2-16

Next week:

The rich young man
Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrews
4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30

In a nutshell

In today's Gospel Jesus directs his questioners to the essence of the vision of marriage found in the Hebrew Scriptures: the unity of man and woman, two in one flesh. Lord, raise our sights to the beauty and freedom of your loving vision for our lives.



Unity: a daily challenge

The little things count

My friend, Angela, has a three year old, eight month old twins and a hard working husband. In a frank conversation she told me how she was in the bathroom one morning hoping to have a moment's peace before Sam went to work. Nature took a little too long and he had to leave.

'I heard him call out goodbye, kiss the kids and run out the door. I heard the truck drive away and the kids began banging on the bathroom door. I just sat there and cried and thought to myself: What have we become? We don't even kiss each other good bye in the morning.'

I thought of Angela for the rest of that day. I know from experience the reality of those tough days. I also think: it's great that she notices she hasn't kissed her husband goodbye!

That's what makes her and her husband so remarkable – despite all their trials they still keep sight

of what is important in their relationship. (Claire)

Homecoming

When my husband, Mark, arrives home from work, our toddler's enthusiasm is unbounded. Her face lights up and she goes running to the door to greet him. Her enthusiasm is reminiscent of what was in my heart when we were first married...

We are the same people now, just a lot more tired and with all the hurts that build up in marriage. It's great that my daughter reminds me of what it means to express love and joy for the person I love most, but whom I often take for granted. When I see my husband through her eyes I can let go of my 'issues' and see the man she sees, the man I fell in love with, the man with whom I chose to spend the rest of my life. (Simone)

Let the little children come to me

My sister's third baby had arrived and was soon to be baptised. I thought a children's bible would be a suitable baptismal gift for Joseph but wanted to be sure, so I rang my sister. She was most encouraging... 'I took Patrick (4) grocery shopping and while trawling the aisles he said, "Mum, how did God make the world?"' While his mother reflected on how she might respond to that one amidst the cornflakes and coffee, Patrick fired the next salvo: 'And who made God?'

I decided it was much easier to purchase the bible than to be the first in line to answer the questions it might provoke! (TE)



church below the rooftops

Witness in the workplace

I made the announcement at work that I was getting married. I was taken aback by the responses of the managers. 'Why would you want to do that?' 'Here we go, another sucker,' 'There goes any fun in life'. And so on. At one point I felt quite annoyed and almost bit back with: 'Just because you're all unhappily married doesn't mean I'm going to be!'

But there was one manager who was different. Greg was the only one who was excited for me and truly congratulated me. I have never forgotten his response to me on this occasion. (CP)

Gift Idea:

As a gift, assist a married couple in finding some time to nurture their relationship and rekindle their romance. This might mean shouting them a marriage enrichment weekend, or minding their children while they take a much needed break together.



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

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