

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

I shall lead them back in mercy. Jeremiah 31:7-9
Christ our High Priest. Hebrews 5:1-6
Go, your faith has saved you. Mark 10:46-52

Next week:

It's all about love
Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews
7:23-28; Mark 12:28-34

In a nutshell

The healing of the blind man is more than a physical cure, it involves an act of faith. The blind man calls upon the mercy of Jesus. Jesus saves and heals. His sight restored, the man follows Jesus. We are reminded that Christian faith is not just a once-off wonderful event, but a lifelong journey.



Eyes that see

Tracy is a teacher in a state school. She is showing me a photograph of her class of 12 year olds.

'This one's my favourite,' she says fondly, pointing to a lively looking girl on the edge of the group. My thoughts immediately fill with stereotypes. Teacher's pet? Top of the class? Best behaved student? Most likely to succeed? As Tracy's next comment makes clear, it is 'none of the above'.

'No one likes her much. Dreadful behavioural problems. She manages to alienate just about every student or teacher she meets. There are many problems at home. Yet she's a beautiful child. I just love her!'

Tell me why she's beautiful, I say. Tracy's eyes sparkle. 'I can just see what's in her,' she says. 'There's so much goodness and potential. She's sharp as a tack. She's got as great singing voice. She's got so many talents that have never been encouraged. It's hard to explain, but I can just see who she really is. And when I affirm her I can see her trying to respond.'

Tracy has that rare gift of a 'God's-eye view' of people. She notices all the goodness that the rest of us miss, our view obscured by a grey film of hurt, cynicism and lack of hope. It just goes to show: when our own view is healed, we can be a healing presence to others.

I thank God that this little girl has Tracy as her teacher. (TP)

Lord, heal us, that we may see the world through your eyes of love.



A prayer

A hospital minister shares this prayer from his faith-journal:

Lord, in my daily life you have chosen me to walk with my sick brothers and sisters. They come from all walks of life and all countries of the world. We all have one thing in common: we are your children. Lord, you have chosen me to minister to them in their time of need. I am aware that I am but an agent of your ministry. Help me, Lord, to be ever aware of your guiding hand, to listen for the unspoken. May I speak as the Spirit prompts me to speak - words of compassion and healing. Just as you reached out to many as you walked your earthly journey, may I follow your example. May the Father's will be done. Amen. (KM)

Healing a nation

The Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge celebrating Corroboree 2000 was an amazing experience. There were thousands of ordinary people, in front and behind, a tide of humanity giving expression to a desire for reconciliation. The real highlight for me was a lone aboriginal woman, attempting to walk against the tide. She looked deeply into the eyes of all she encountered, crying in sheer astonishment at the tangible support of so many. (JS)

Think . Pray . Act

In what ways are you an agent of Christ's healing presence?

Give praise to God for those who offer a healing gift - e.g. medical personnel, counsellors, spiritual healers, eucharistic ministers, pastors and pastoral workers.

Today, consciously undertake one small step that is healing and lifegiving.



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

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