

4 Lent Friday  
JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Contained within this morning's gospel is one of two scripture verses giving the reason why we cover the statues for the last two weeks of Lent:

But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly, but as it were in secret.

The other scripture verse comes a few chapters later, in John 11:54:

So Jesus no longer walked about in public among the Jews, but he left for the region near the desert, to a town called Ephraim, and there he remained with his disciples.

So the way I see it, Jesus was the first to practice social distancing. Social distancing was introduced to us a couple of weeks ago, but leave it to Jesus to come up with a plan, social distancing, so all would happen according to divine plan.

Jesus practiced social distancing so that his death would not come too soon. According to divine plan, His death would make so much sense, divine sense, to occur

at the same time as Passover. We all have free will. The Jewish leaders, the Romans all practiced free will. But Jesus was not helpless before free will. In John's gospel, Jesus is portrayed as being in complete control.

1. In John, there was no Agony in the Garden;
2. In John, Jesus was clear to tell Pilate he had no power over Him;
3. In John, Jesus carried the cross by himself; no need for a Simon of Cyrene;
4. In John, there was no God forsakenness on the cross;
5. No, rather, in John, Jesus, realizing all was finished, decided the moment of His death. He said, "It is finished." And bowing His head, He delivered over His spirit.

John's theology of Jesus "in complete control" is spot on, today, in this pandemic, in this time of social distancing. Thank God we have the privilege of faith. President Trump foresees so many suicides if the economy goes south. He foresees this because some have chosen not to accept the gift of faith. Never did it occur to them they would ever need a power greater than themselves. So self sufficient.

I can only speak about my life's experience, and it shouldn't take a pandemic to come to the conclusion of faith. It doesn't take a pandemic to realize that Jesus is always in complete control.

As God would have it, not only is the theology of John spot on, but so is today's meditation:

### **March 27 – Go Forward**

Rest in Me, quiet in My Love, strong in My Power. Think what it is to possess a Power greater than any earthly force. A sway greater and more far-reaching than that of any earthly king.

No invention, no electricity, no magnetism, no gold, could achieve one millionth the part of all that you can achieve by the Power of My Spirit. Just think for one moment all that means.

Go forward.