

Wednesday 5 Lent
JN 8:31-42

In this morning's gospel, Jesus is talking with the Jews who believed in Him, who were trying to give Jesus the benefit of the doubt. He is in conversation with those who believe, but understandably, do not understand. They just don't get it.

Jesus says the "truth" will set you free. Jesus is the truth. Their reply, "We have never been enslaved to anyone," which was not at all the "truth." Over the years, the Jews were slaves in Egypt, in Babylon, in Syria, and at the time of Jesus, in Rome. They just don't get it.

Jesus, says, no, slaves of sin.

Jesus tells them because they are not following the example of their father, Abraham. That is, Abraham did not kill the messenger from God. Genesis 18 clearly records Abraham welcomed them. Therefore, the Jews must be doing the works of "their" father. Again, they don't get. They bring up Jesus' illegitimacy. Joseph is not your father! They just don't get it.

A lot of us don't get the coronavirus. Some aren't even trying. 47 people in an apartment in Ewing for a coronavirus party? Four weddings were raided by the police in Lakewood. Six rabbis are dead. Are you kidding me? One thing they will get, literally, is the coronavirus!

But the rest of us are trying to understand this pandemic. And the truth is coming as fast as the medical professionals can better understand this virus. And the help and the supplies are coming as fast as the government can get it there. And the self-isolating will be as effective as it can be for those who self-isolate. And as for the naysayers and the Monday morning quarterbacks, well, there will always be those who sit back and know better.

For believers, there's really only one who gets the Coronavirus, and that's Our Blessed Lord. He gets it, He's got it, and He has it . . . all figured out.

I've said this in more than one funeral homily over the years. I don't like the wording of obituaries that read that so and so lost the fight to cancer. Let's be clear that believers don't lose the fight. We don't lose anything. We

are people of faith, and as people of faith, death never has the last word. Jesus had the last word on the cross.

So for believers, no one will lose the battle to the Coronavirus.

So as for the ins and outs, to and from the hospitals, the ups and downs of test results and vaccine progress, wear a mask, don't wear a mask, let's be sure we all get one thing. Jesus gets it. He's got it, and He has it, all figured out.