

4th Saturday of Lent “The Plot Thickens”

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The readings are clearly building us up towards holy week even though we are still a little more than a week away. The readings today speak of the sinful way human beings like to plot. Of course, some types of “plotting” can be benign, like when we are playing chess or cards and we are plotting a way to win a silly game. There can also be good ways in how we plot, like organizing a surprise birthday party and such. But we human beings also have the capacity to plot in ways that are evil, like setting up a fellow employee or classmate to fail or gossiping about someone behind their back.

In our Gospel reading there is a division about who Jesus is. Some have embraced him as the Christ. Some have dismissed all Galileans as being incapable of being any sort of prophet at all and some who were just trying to figure out a way to get Jesus arrested. Nicodemus comes to the rescue. He sees through all the plotting and wants Jesus to be treated fairly.

However, we all know that there is a divine plot at work as well. The divine plot was to demonstrate love that the world has never seen in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself knew that it would be through his passion, death and resurrection that salvation would come into the world.

And so, it seems everyone has the ability to plan ahead and to even plot. And so we can ask ourselves: What is our plan for the next coming weeks of shelter in place? Is our plan to grow closer to God or to grow distant from God? Are we plotting out ways we can grow closer to our family and friends, creative uses of technology and such, or are we going to use this time to push people further away, placing our ego and wants over others? Will we give Jesus our sinfulness and brokenness so he can heal us or are we going to vainly pretend to ourselves that we are somehow spiritual self-sufficiency? In the coming weeks, our actions will demonstrate what is really going on in our hearts. Everyone is going to develop a plot or plan of sorts to make it through this. It think the readings this morning strongly suggest, make it a good one!