



**God, the Father of
Social and Sacred
Distancing!**
Matthew 27:45-50

As Jesus Hung on the Cross Suffering, He Shouted Words That Pierced the Heart of God!

“Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” Matthew 27:46

“My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?”

- Why have you socially and spiritually distanced yourself from me?
- ***“Why are you sitting in your own isolation, QUARANTINED from your son, and keeping your own hands tied from acting on my behalf!”***
- Jesus had already prayed to His Father to avoid the agony of His suffering, ***“let this cup pass from me.”*** Matthew 26:39
- But the God who could have sent 12 legions (over 80,000) of angels for His Son if asked, Matt. 26:53, sat in isolation and remained silent and distant

The Godhead Had Exercised Social Distancing Before This Incident

- Remember when Jesus received the message from Mary and Martha that Lazarus was very sick, He chose to remain in the city of Bethany where He was, two more heart-wrenching days, before going to see his friend fewer than two miles away; John 11:1-7
- So now, while on the cross, Jesus was in the suffering role that Lazarus had encountered earlier in Jesus' ministry
- Two days when you are sick unto death is a long time (In modern medicine, ventilators, IV fluids, IV Antibiotics, IV Antiviral agents, Antihypertensive agents, Coronary Catheterizations and Dialysis, have an adequate opportunity to change someone's medical course within two days)

Observations

- The sisters knew what Jesus could have done, and Martha complained to Him when He finally arrived, *“Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* The sisters thought that while Lazarus was on the time side of life, Jesus could have done something
- But He remained in isolation from His friends, even through Lazarus’ death
- Eventually, Jesus had to inform His disciples of Lazarus’ passing:

“Lazarus is dead, and for your sakes I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” John 11:14

- When you think about it, God's isolation/distancing from Jesus on the cross and Jesus' isolation/distancing from Lazarus were parts of the cure for both situations
- Both distancing measures by God and Jesus resulted in an increase in faith on the part of the recipients
- Don't you think that Lazarus and his sisters felt abandoned in some way as did Jesus, as He showed His frustration on the cross when He cried out, "God, you have forsaken me?"
- Think about this: Lazarus' sickness was a direct result of "the fall of man," and it was being used as a tool by Satan
"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12

***Lazarus Was Paying for Man's Consequences,
But Jesus Was Doing Something About
Man's Consequences! Isaiah 53:5***

As God's Children We Too Sometimes Experience What Seems Like the Abandonment of Jesus

- When God's providence seems late or even absent
- Jesus was pleased when He received the "telegram of prayer," from Lazarus' sisters acknowledging that His presence was necessary
- What we don't realize is that, not only does He hear every prayer offered, but He also knows every prayer withheld
- It's a "slap in the face of God," when a prayer goes UNSENT about our issues and problems as if we think:
*"He is too busy for us" or "Why bother God about this" or
"He already knows, so why tell Him" or "He doesn't care"*

There is a Ministry in God's Perceived "Isolation From Us!"

- **As God chose to wait two days before coming to Lazarus to create a longing for His bodily presence in Lazarus' sisters, so should the time we spend in prayer during our difficulties create a longing for His presence in our lives**
- **Just as His "Sacred Distancing" (the wait), from Mary and Martha was for a purpose, so is the time in our lives until our "faith becomes sight," for a purpose as well. Mary and Martha resemble the church in this story:**
- **Jesus' Sacred and Social Distancing caused them to doubt the effectiveness of their message to Him**
- **Jesus' Sacred and Social Distancing caused them to question their loving relationship with Jesus**
- **Jesus' Sacred and Social Distancing caused them to doubt whether Jesus would ever return to them**

But Jesus Chose the Wait and Social Distancing That They Might Believe!

If You Have Not Received the Answer to Your Prayers, Keep on Praying!

- Pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- Pray persistently, Luke 11:5-9 Jesus gives the example of the persistent friend needing three bread loaves, who goes to his friend at midnight requesting them:

“Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (shameless audacity) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you,”

Ask and it shall be given unto you....”

- Pray fervently, James 5:16 (earnest, heartfelt, continued)
- The prayer of a person who is living right is something powerful to be reckoned with, God says

What If We Treated Sin Like COVID 19?

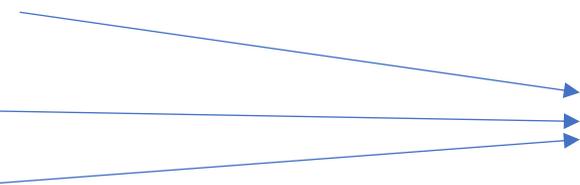
- We are all infected by it, Romans 3:23
- We are willfully infected by it, Romans 7:19-21
- Because we are willfully infected, God Sacredly Distances Himself from us, Isaiah 59:1-2
- It's dangerous because it is readily transmissible, 1 Corinthians 15:33
- Like COVID 19, sin has different Variants (ex. alpha, gamma, delta)

The Lust of the Flesh

The Lust of the Eye

The Pride of Life

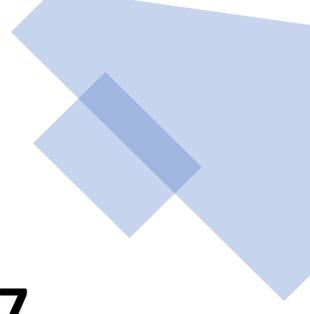
1 John 2:15-17



- Like COVID 19, sin can have a deadly prognosis, Romans 6:23

What If We Treated Sin Like COVID 19?

- To avoid infection we have to avoid those who put themselves at risk for their own infection, 2 Corinthians 6:17, Psalms 1:1
- To avoid the infection of sin like COVID, we have the opportunity to continue to sanitize ourselves, 1 John 1:7-9
- So, unlike Covid 19, Jesus took on the “viral contagion of SIN,” to make us whole again, 2 Corinthians 5:21:
“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

