

The Sermon - In 10 Sentences Or Less

1. One of the most referenced books, by both Christian and non-Christian articles and books on the CoVid crisis, is "The Plague" by Albert Camus, written in 1947.

2. One of its lessons is that we must speak right things about God, for misleading or inexact statements are hurtful and damaging.

3. Definitive statements like "God is angry and using the plague/CoVid to judge our sin" and "We must accept the plague/CoVid as God's will" are both problematic and, at root, groundless.

4. To say right things about God during an epidemic, Christians must look to Jesus, God's best expression of Himself (John 1.18).

5. What you see in passages like John 9.1-8 and Luke 13.1-4 is that Jesus didn't look backward to find fault as a root cause, but rather He looked forward to how God would intervene and act to rectify the problem.

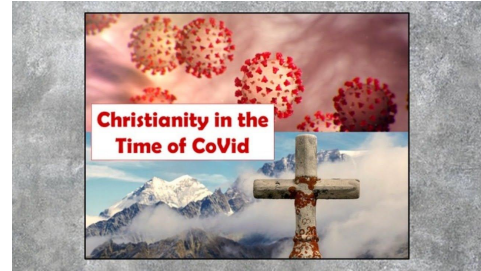
6. You'll also note that Jesus, like Dr. Rieux, the chief protagonist in "The Plague," was always on the side of the victim, and never on the side of the affliction itself.

7. "We need to remember that the pandemic is our enemy, not each other." (Dave Henreckson, in Comment magazine, 9/1/20)

8. Another chief lesson of "The Plague" that syncs with Christianity is that plague, like CoVid, are monotonous, and pull us away from the present, making us yearn for any time but right now.

9. But ironically today is all we have, and so we have no choice but to live well, find joy and goodness, and be full of God's presence in the imperfect present tense: as Jean Pierre Caussade (1675-1751 A.D.) said it, "If we have abandoned ourselves to God, there is only one rule for us: the sacrament of the present moment."

10. Likewise, churches mustn't wait to get back to normal or to get through to the other side of CoVid; no, we must learn to be4 the church, in all its particulars and aims, during CoVid, for today is all the church has as well.



"The Plague" by Albert Camus

If you're interested in learning more about this great work of 20th-century literature, and why it's a touchstone for so many right now, try any one of these links:

- A short summary video of the book

[Albert Camus - The Plague](#)

- A short video that applies key lessons from the book to our CoVid epidemic

[Coronavirus: Insights from Albert Camus' 'The Plague'](#)

A Prayer For The Week

Adapted from Faustina Kowalska, 1900s, Poland):

O My God, when I look into the future, I am frightened, so why do I wish to plunge myself into a future that may never come? Also, it is no longer in my power to change, correct or add to the past, so I can only entrust it, and its lingering effect, to You. Only the present moment, whole and entire, belongs to me. I desire to use it as best I can. And although I am weak and small, I walk through life with the faith of a child, trusting Your mercy and grace, offering You my awareness of each and every moment, each second stacked upon the previous ones, eventually adding up to an entire lifetime, now and forevermore, amen.