

**Our Will versus God's Plans**    Fifth Week of Lent    Saturday, April 8, 2017    8:15 AM  
Ez 37:21-28;    **Jn 11:45-56**    (The problem underlying is that the people themselves didn't want what God wanted.)

**“If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come to take away both on land and our nation.”**

Now this statement is probably a very valid assessment of the motivation of Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. They looked at Jesus with great fear precisely because he was so popular, at least for a while he was very popular. And they were afraid that the Romans would come and destroy the temple, which actually they did about fifty years later. So on the one hand, **they sacrificed Jesus for the sake of the nation.** God didn't sacrifice Jesus for the sake of the nation; they did, but **God let it happen.** But that didn't work because in the long run **that wasn't God's plan.** For the moment, yes, they preserved the status quo, but in the long run they didn't because they didn't deal with the problem underlying.

**And the problem underlying is that the people themselves didn't want what God wanted.** What God wanted is summarized in Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom, a new order of living, a new way of life, **a new relationship with God, one that is intimate and personal and intentional. They didn't want that.** They wanted an independent nation. They wanted the good old days.

**So God's divine providence and salvific will works through all these vicissitudes** of history and politics and economics and the will of the crowd, which is usually not too good. **What God was planning is seen only in retrospect through the resurrection of Christ, through the new life that comes with the Holy Spirit.** Sadly the vast majority of the crowd wanted something else, a sad commentary that continues into our own day.