## Never More Present

t the very moment that we want Jesus to be most vivid something obscures him. All things come and I go in life. Jesus came and went. Sometimes there is an unrecognized good in the going. A parent takes a small boy to camp and goes home without him. But the parent's going was for the child's good; the child must learn how to live with his contemporaries, how to carry his own load, how to play and how to get along without the constant oversight of his parents. There are times when God disappears to put us on our own. He wants persons, not puppets. And yet there is a sense in which Jesus did not go away at all. Whereas he had once dwelt among them, he now dwelt within them! In some ways he was more real than he was before. They could reach him wherever they were. So in one sense Jesus was never more present than when he was absent!

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Readings for Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11