

***May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.***

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**In our Gospel today Jesus declares: “A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father”.**

**Some of His disciples said to one another, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; ‘because I am going to the Father’?” “What does He mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.”**

**Jesus knew that they didn’t understand what He was saying and wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament,**

**but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.**

**Yes, Jesus said “In a little while you will not see me.” He is going to the Father. This warning of His leaving has been frequent in His teachings with the disciples.**

**He tells them, “You will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice.”**

**The disciples - even with Jesus’ warning to them about His leaving - will “weep and lament.” At this point they have been very comforted with having Jesus with them. He can answer all their questions. He is their teacher, and they have devoted their lives to Him. They did not yet know what was in store for Jesus - The suffering - the shame - His agony on the cross.**

**His leaving naturally will create a void, an absence, in their lives. But, it will be only for a little while, yes, a little while.**

**The apostles do not understand that yet.**

**Although the disciples and others will “weep and lament.” Those who rejected Jesus, those who would not listen to Him, those who had mocked Him, will rejoice. They will be rid of an annoyance who had warned them that their ways would bring damnation. The wicked world sees the death of Jesus and says “Good riddance.”**

**And the Pharisees are glad for the death of Jesus. He can no longer trouble them with His brilliant knowledge of God and the Scriptures, His criticizing them for their ignoring the teachings in scripture. And their living for power, false respect, and prestige. And with Jesus' death, they are less concerned about the Romans coming to destroy them.**

**Pontius Pilate and Herod were glad for Jesus' death as well, since they viewed Him as a rebel, an instigator, a ring leader, a troublemaker, a threat to their power.**

**And those people who rejected Jesus and cried out "we want Barabbas" and "Let Him be crucified." They may have cheered His being hung in agony on the cross. They may have rejoiced in their evil.**

**As for the disciples, Jesus promises "You will be sorrowful." Sorrow will fill their hearts, pushing out every other emotion. This is Christ's promise to the disciples. There will be sorrow. Jesus will be tortured. He will be shamed. He will suffer. He will be crucified.**

**But this sorrow will turn into joy. While Jesus said "In a little while you will not see me" He also said, "And again a little while "You will weep and lament" and "You will be sorrowful," He also said "Your sorrow will turn into joy." What does Jesus**

**mean? How is this possible? How can their great sorrow turn into joy?**

**It is because they soon will know that Jesus has only left them for a short period of time. He will return in His glorious resurrection, and then will send the Holy Spirit, the comforter to be with them, and to be with all Christians.**

**And Jesus teaches us this as a parable:**

**“When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy – a child has been born into the world.”**

**The sorrow becomes joy. And it is not simply that one good thing happens to replace a bad thing, - but that the very event which was considered bad is now considered good. The birth of the child - struggle though it was - is now a great joy. And the death of Christ - horrific as it was - is now the grounds of our confirmation.**

**That event which brings us so much sorrow and weeping, now brings us so much joy as we see God’s love for His people in the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.**

**The resurrection of Jesus made known to the apostles, as they cowered in the room, initially frightened them, but now they understood the meaning of what Jesus was telling them. “In a**

**little while you will not see me” And “Again, a little while and you will see me.”**

**A little while – on the third day - He appears again to His disciples. He has conquered death. There is overwhelming joy.**

**And the glory of the return of Jesus is amplified by His sending the Holy Spirit who will remain with all Christians forever. No one can take away that joy, The joy of knowing that Christ is risen and He has sent the Holy Spirit to be with them. This joy is a fruit of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit.**

**We are blessed by God with salvation. We are remarkably blessed. We have everything we need when we have the Lord, because of the salvation promised us in Christ Jesus. And when we rest on Him we have joy. “a little while and you will see me.”**

**In our daily life, we as sinners have many struggles. We fall into much sorrow in the problems in our daily life. Joy should mark our lives because we have Christ. We can go to Him with our problems. Jesus will listen. The joy that Jesus gives us is great, even though Christ is not present here in His body. We have great joy because He is resurrected and He sends his Holy Spirit to us to be our comforter.**

**Obviously, we will not be happy at every moment of our lives, but we will have the greatest everlasting joy. The joy we speak of is not like that of the world's joy. The world's joy is fleeting. But we have continuous joy in Jesus. We thank God for the blessings we have received each day of our lives. And we especially thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His promise of eternal life with Him when He said:**

**“In a little while, ye shall see me.”**

**Praise be to God.**

**Amen.**

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