

## **Lent Day 32**

Thursday March 22, 2018

### **Reading:** John 16:16-33

<sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy....<sup>33</sup> “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

### **Reflection**

It's not hard to picture the disciple's confusion over what Jesus was saying. After all, when we look at our own literature, movies and television the majority of our stories have our heroes winning or dying trying to win. Jesus is ready to die without a fight and when he dies the world will be happy. This is because the world is patterned after its current ruler; Sin, Death, Satan. They think they've won because they are destroying the one who would be ruler over this world, Jesus.

But, while the world rejoices over this coming death, we Christians mourn the death of God's holy one. No matter what benefits accrue to us as a result of this death something, someone precious is soiled. No matter how wonderful the ends from our perspective those ends cannot justify that means. But then we can expect a great reversal!

He who is to be put to death will be raised again, now to new life, never to die again! Resurrection from the dead. It is not only death to new life, but the fortunes are exchanged too. Those who rejoiced over the death of the Messiah, will weep at the breaking of their powers. And, we Christians who appropriately mourned the death of God's beloved will rejoice because the grave could not hold him!

Jesus uses the metaphor of child birth; labour is agony for a woman and yet once she has her child that pain is soon forgotten — it is swallowed up in joy. Jesus uses all this to give us, his followers, perspective. While we are in this world we will have tribulation — pain — but there is coming a time when that pain will be swallowed up by joy. Death will be swallowed up by Life — this is the great work that God has done in the death and resurrection of Jesus and our joy has truly been made full.

### **Prayer**

Giver of Life, thank you for giving what was most precious to rescue us, who do not deserve so precious a gift. You are truly good. Help us to hold on to you and your promise of Life as we face tribulation and pain. Amen.