



Daily Reflections

May 26, 2017

Scripture

John 16: 20-23

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn,
while the world rejoices;
you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.

When a woman is in labor, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived;
but when she has given birth to a child,
she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy
that a child has been born into the world.

So you also are now in anguish.

But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy away from you.

On that day you will not question me about anything.

Amen, amen, I say to you,
whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."

Our Scripture Reflection

When Jesus told His disciples on numerous occasions that He would have to suffer and die in order to enter His glory, it did not register with them. Why?

Because the good times were rolling. They witnessed the impossible happen time after time. They could not wait to enter His Kingdom. But then came Calvary. All of their hopes and dreams were dashed. Or were they? Easter came. Jesus was raised. And when they first saw Him they could not believe their eyes. He truly had been raised. What joy they experienced, as He promised.

Food for your Journey

I am a chaplain in a hospital where I serve folks in a unique cultural mix of urban and rural poor outside of a large metropolitan area. Yesterday we had three pediatric deaths -- all sudden and unexpected and from different families. This is not usual.

As I have thought about the intersection of these things I find myself reflecting on how praise / joy does not necessarily mean happy applause. Joy is a spiritual fruit, cultivated in hard soil, watered by hope and surviving when the sun has somehow scorched your heart. It takes root in faithfulness and community despite the environment, and the praise comes when -- unseen by those too far removed -- compassion, love, kindness and tenderness sing forth.

--Rev. Judi Holmes-Jensen, Chaplain, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Fill my heart this day with the joy that only You can give. Keep my heart close to Your heart, forever. Amen.