

(John 16:19-22, NIV84)

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you:

Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

Jesus had the above conversation with His disciples on the night of the Last Supper. He speaks of a "time of grief" the disciples would endure. When the events of Good Friday had taken their toll on Jesus and His lifeless body was laid in the tomb, His friends were filled with grief. And on the next day, the one we refer to as Holy Saturday, Jesus' body was still in the grave and His disciples were still grieving. They didn't realize that the day of resurrection was just a short time away; they failed to grasp the meaning of Jesus' words of promise and comfort and assurance. Let us not make the same mistake.

We are not children of Holy Saturday, with a Jesus who is cold and dead in the grave. We are children of the resurrection, with a living and victorious Savior who triumphed over death! Therefore we don't need to live in the grief of Holy Saturday. For us, every day is Easter -- every day is a day to celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive. And because He lives, we too live!

Martin Luther was once dealing with a time of depression. So his wife, Katherine dressed herself in a funeral dress and when Luther asked her who died, she replied, "God died. Based on how you've been acting, I thought He must have died." Her point was made and Luther recovered from his depression. He and we have a living Lord. Let's live in that joyous fact always.

"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."  
(Psalm 118:24)

Rejoicing with you in our living Lord Jesus,  
Pastor Golm

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April 15

## The Clocks of My Father's House

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness. 2  
Peter 3:9

Travelers to distant countries have been known to keep one timepiece set to the time of their native land so that, for reasons of sentiment, they might always know what time it is in the homeland. In a somewhat similar sense, the Christian pilgrim keeps one clock, the clock of his faith and trust, in time with the clocks in his Father's house above.

The answer to my prayer, the lifting of my cross, the deliverance from a painful sorrow, or the granting of a long-sought pleasure are all scheduled for fulfillment, not according to the clocks and calendars on my kitchen wall, but according to the clocks of eternity, which are "telling time" on the walls of my Father's house.

God never comes too late with too little or too soon with too much. He is always on time- his time. His delays, when delays occur, are always the delays of love. His "little whiles" are always the preludes to greater revelations of his mercy. "For a small moment have I forsaken thee", he says, "but with great mercies will I gather thee." "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

What a comfort to know that before the foundations of the world were laid, all the clocks of heaven were set for the eternal welfare of those who would entrust themselves to the Savior's promise, by faith in his redeeming love. God's ways with us may indeed seem "past finding out", but in Christ we know that they are always the ways of love.

Beloved, "It is well!" God's ways are always right;  
And perfect love is o'er them all, Though far above our sight.

Beloved, "It is well!" Tho' sorrow clouds our way,  
'Twill only make the joy more dear That ushers in the day.