

The Present Moment Sixth Week of Easter Friday, May 11, 2018 8:15 AM Acts 18:9-18; **Jn 16:20-23** (Live in the present moment, endure what must be endured, but recognize that we are on the move toward something else.)

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

Well there is no time framework on this particular teaching. We know that **Jesus actually honored the grieving process.** He himself wept over Jerusalem. He said, “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.” One of his very chief disciples was Mary Magdalene who is known for her weeping. That’s where we get the English word “maudlin.” The saints talk about “the gift of tears.” The whole cult of martyrs is based on the desire and willingness of people to give up their lives on earth for something far superior. **So this future orientation beyond what we see and experience is very important.** Originally this idea came from the prophets in ancient Israel, that there is a day coming. They called it the Day of Yahweh, *Yom Yahweh*, and it was a time when fulfillment would be experienced by the people, but it wasn’t in the present moment.

Now the present moment is very important, but the present moment is not totality because there is growth going on. And the example used here is a woman giving birth. You could say he is trying to say **God is giving birth to something new and it’s very painful and it causes anxiety and anguish. But don’t worry; joy is on the way.**

Now how this affects everyone is different, but that everyone bears some of this anguish is, to me, rather obvious. The problem is so much of the world tries to avoid the whole issue of: what’s coming or what is life for or what is God doing? They don’t even ask the question; they don’t want to.

Now mystics often talk about living in the present moment, which is all well and good insofar as **the present moment is pregnant with God and God’s word and God’s purpose.** But some people live in the present moment in a sense of ignoring the future, ignoring the purpose of life, just moving minute by minute, but not with any sense of going anywhere. This particular teaching is trying to help us to **live in the present moment, endure what must be endured, but recognize that we are on the move toward something else.**