

**6/5/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Jesus wanted to prepare His disciples for the future. So, he approached them with a specific observation: *“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’”* John 16:5. Yes, the disciples knew Jesus was going to suffer, die and rise again. He told them as much. The disciples also knew Jesus was going to return to his Father. He told them that as well. Still deep-seated fears kept the disciples from asking the question. In their hearts, they wanted Jesus to stay with them.

There are times when I succumb to the same fear the disciples had. I know Jesus’ faithful promises. I know Jesus’ undeserved love. I even know he returned to his Father for my sake. Still, I refrain from asking the question, “Where are you going, Lord?” As a result, my fears lead me to a different question: “Lord, where have you gone?”

Jesus returned to his Father to reclaim his glory as God. With that power he rules over all things for my blessing. This is the lesson Jesus’ disciples could not comprehend. It is the same lesson with which I struggle.

Jesus’ precious work of salvation began when he came to this earth. As my obedient Savior and Substitute, he secured the sin-free life I lacked to stand before God. He also provided the complete payment to free me from condemnation. His resurrection from the grave confirmed that his work of salvation was finished and his ascension back to his Father marked his work on earth complete.

It is comforting to know that Jesus now uses his incomparable power to watch over me. He delivers me from danger. He guides me with his love. He even responds to my needs through his never-failing presence.

The disciples feared Jesus' departure and what the future would be without him, so none of them asked the question, "Where are you going, Lord?" Through faith in my ascended Savior not only do I ask that question, I rejoice in the answer.

***Prayer:*** *O gracious Lord, I know you have returned to heaven and your Father. Give me the faith I need to rejoice in your return, to trust in your promises, and to find comfort in you reclaiming your power to reign. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, Adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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