**Lessons from a Lockdown**

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**Day 6**

**Philippians 2:9-13**

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

*Questions for Personal Reflection:*

1. Was there ever a time you got lifted up after you chose to be humble? What happened?
2. How will your attitude towards people be if you keep in mind that someday, they would bow before Jesus and acknowledge that “Jesus is Lord”?
3. What do you think you need to do or to be, in order to “work out” your salvation?
4. In what ways do you think you need to be careful in order to fulfill God’s expectations of you?
5. How do you think God is working in you right now so that you can desire and act in order to fulfill his good purpose”?

*Insight:*

Because Jesus humbled himself, he was exalted to the highest place. The same principle applies to us. When we humble ourselves before the Lord, he will lift us up (Jas 4:10). One way or another we will be humbled. It is better that we humble ourselves before God, rather than God humbling us. God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. So we should humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift us up in due time (1 Pe 5:5-6).

Every day it is sad to see in the news or in social media, stories about people being arrogant, corrupt, and boastful as if there is no God. It is painful to hear people speak lies and misrepresent the truth. It is heartbreaking to observe how the selfish seem to get everything they want while the noble hearted and the selfless suffer the consequences. So sometimes we can wonder, why does God allow this? Why does God allow them to get away with such things? Why does God not punish? The answer is in the scriptures.

Paul writes that someday, at the name of Jesus *every knee* will bow, and *every tongue* will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. Someday everyone will have to bow before Jesus and confess that *Jesus is Lord.* The atheist, the arrogant, the corrupt, the liar, the greedy, the prideful, the wicked – and all those who live as if there is God will someday have to confess that Jesus is Lord. On that day, for many, it will be too late. Everyone at some point in their lives would have to say Jesus is Lord. It is better to confess Jesus is Lord and live out our lives in accordance with our confession, then to confess on the day of judgment.

So instead of being angry, upset or offended by people when they act wickedly, we need to remember their final destiny (Ps 73:17). One day all of us will be judged. For those who reject Jesus and his words, they will be condemned on that day (Jn 12:48). If they do not repent, this will be their destiny. We should therefore treat them and respond to them in accordance with this truth.

We ourselves need to “work out” our salvation. While we cannot work for or earn our salvation, we can certainly act in ways that disqualify us from that salvation. We cannot work to be saved, but there are expectations of us because we are saved. We should exercise utmost care – with fear and trembling – to want to fulfill his good purpose and to act in order to do it. To act with fear and trembling is to act like a person trying to defuse a bomb choosing which wire to cut. He needs utmost care to choose the right one otherwise he might die. We must exercise the same kind of care in fulfilling God’s expectations of us. That’s why we need to study the Bible carefully and pray constantly for wisdom so that we know in each moment what God wants us to do. We cannot afford to be careless with our Christianity.

But we shouldn’t be worried. The scripture says God works in us to will and to act to fulfill his purpose. He helps us get the right heart and the ability to do what needs to be done. God does not leave us to fight our battles alone. He is our trainer, our coach, and our adviser. He equips us with everything good for doing his will (Heb 13:21). Our Lord always helps us to do what is right.

The lockdown does not change the truth that Jesus is Lord.