**Lessons from a Lockdown**

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**Day 52**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,

rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What does it mean to be “light in the Lord” and to live as “children of light”?
2. Do I feel like I am a child of the light? In what specific situations can I be a light?
3. Am I good? Am I righteous? Am I truthful? Would the people around me agree with me? Why?
4. How am I finding out what pleases the Lord? What have I found out? What am I doing about it?
5. How am I exposing the darkness? Have I done this less since the pandemic? Why?

***Insight:***

We used to *be* darkness, not just in darkness. We were part of darkness itself. We were not just victims but participants in darkness. We were among those who made the world a dark place. We were part of the evil in the world. But now we are *the* light. We are not just in the light, but part of what lights up the world. We used to be villains, now we are heroes. Being a light is our heroic mission. We must wake-up each day deciding to be a light.

As the light, we are supposed to guide others and show them the way. We are to serve as good examples for everyone. Are we being good examples to the people in our homes? Are we being good examples online? What can we do better?

If we are being the light, we should have the fruits of the light. Would the people who see us say we are good? Would the people who we interact with say we are righteous? Would the people around us say we are truthful? More importantly, what would God say?

As children of the light we need to find out what pleases the Lord. Children love to please their parents. We need to be the same way to God. We should yearn for and seek his approval more than anyone else. We should always look for ways to please God. If we really want to please God, we will not just rely on others to tell us how to please God. We will find out on our own.

We should have nothing to do with the “fruitless deeds of darkness.” We should not participate in the sinful behavior of others. This might mean people would make fun of us for not being one of them. It might mean we would lose friends (but are they really friends if they lead us to sin?). It might even mean we would lose certain benefits. We might be discriminated against. But we still do this because we want to please God more than anyone else.

Not only should we not take part in darkness, we should expose it. In fact, it is the nature of light to expose what is in darkness. We can’t be a light and not do this. Some people don’t realize the darkness in their lives, that what they are doing is sinful and will destroy them. That’s why we study the Bible with people. That’s why we have discipling times. We never stop being a light. But are we still exposing darkness during the pandemic? Have we become so self-focused that we have stopped being a light to others?

Exposing the darkness also means being open with our own sins. Even though we are light, darkness has a way of creeping back in if we are not alert and watchful. Acts done in darkness can be shameful, so we might hold back confessing. Have you had a time of confession since the pandemic began? Are there fellow disciples whom you are open with during this time? Are we proactively being open to others or are we waiting for them to ask us? It is easier to hide our sins these days because we communicate mostly online. But we need to remember that while God does not demand us to be sinless, he does expect us to walk in the light. When we sin, we bring it to the light. Paul said that “everything that is illuminated becomes a light.” Even our sinful behavior once confessed, can bring more light to our lives. How? Don’t we learn from our past mistakes? In fact, we can use our experience to teach other people to avoid sins. That we are able to be open and overcome our sins can be an inspiration for others especially those who are seeking to escape the darkness.

If we are finding out what pleases God every day, we will know how to be a light and how to fight back the darkness. If we know what pleases God, we will be better equipped to expose the darkness and live as children of the light.

Light and darkness cannot co-exist. We cannot be light and yet have darkness in us. We need to choose.

Let us choose to be light during this lockdown and do what pleases the Lord.