**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 63**

**1 John 2:3-6**

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. How obedient am I to Jesus’ commands? What command do I have difficulty obeying? Why?
2. Am I more obedient to Jesus now than when I first became a Christian? Why do I say that?
3. Do I know Jesus more now than when I first became a Christian? Why do I say that?
4. How can I know Jesus more? What practical things can I do?
5. How much is Jesus the role model for my everyday life? Why do I say that?

***Insight:***

We know Jesus if we obey his commands. To know him is to obey him. Knowing Jesus inspires obedience in us. If we are not inspired to obey, then we don’t really know him.

There is a difference between *knowing about* Jesus and *knowing* Jesus. The first only requires information, the second requires a relationship. For many people in the world, they know Jesus like they know a character in a book or a person in history. They have information about his life and his words, but they do not have a relationship with him. But for Christians, knowing Jesus is like knowing a close friend. It is difficult for anyone to imagine hurting a character in a book or a person in history, but it’s quite easy to relate to hurting a close friend. So, even if we understand that our sins hurt Jesus, it would not really affect us if we only know about Jesus. The more we don’t see or feel the presence of Jesus in our lives, the easier it is for us to disobey. But the closer we are to him, the harder it is for us to disobey him. Whether or not it is easy for us to obey Jesus, reflects how close we are to him. So how close to Jesus are you today?

When we obey, love for God is truly made complete in us. Obedience is not only the effect of knowing Jesus; it is also the way to complete our love for God. Our love is incomplete without obedience. The more we obey, the more our love for God grows. As we grow older as Christians, the more our love for God should grow as we grow in our obedience.

The Greek word translated as “obey” is also translated as “keep” or “guard.” The word seems to imply an attitude of being careful of not losing or neglecting any single command. This makes sense as we cannot obey a command we do not know or have forgotten. This is why it is important that we read the Bible. We need to read the Bible daily because we need guidance daily and we need daily reminders. We need to read the Bible completely because we don’t want to miss a single command. We need to read the whole Bible repeatedly and frequently because we often forget. We need to guard the Word of God in our hearts because the enemy will always try to make us forget it. It would help if we wrote down the lessons God is teaching us every day and to read these notes regularly. In the world today, we are bombarded with information daily. If we are not careful, the Word of God will be drowned out by the noise from the world. That is why we need our quiet times – a regular time we put the world on silent mode and focus on the Word of God. We need a daily time to hear God’s instructions for us and simply have a conversation with God. Are we having these daily conversations with God? Are we listening to his voice?

If we claim to live in Jesus, we must walk as he did. Christians are people who live like Christ. Living like Christ is the test of being a Christian as obedience is the test of whether or not we know him. If we are tested today, what would the results be?

If we know Jesus, we will know how he lived. We would know the answer to these questions: Would Jesus live the way I do? Would he have the same schedule as I do? Would he engage in the same activities as I do? Would he have the same relationships that I do? Would he approve of the things I approve of?

We need to intentionally be like Jesus every single day. “Be yourself” is a popular motto. While we should never pretend to be someone we are not, still, a better motto would be “Be like Christ.” It is not about pretending to be a Christian, but becoming like Christ. To be like Christ means we really need to study how Jesus lived, his character, what he said and how he felt about things. Have we ever studied Jesus in this way? We need to know Jesus as we would know a best friend.

Let’s pass the test by being obedient to Jesus’s commands and living like Jesus.