**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 69**

**1 John 3:1-6**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. How should knowing that I am a child of God affect me?
2. Is becoming like Christ something I look forward to? Why?
3. What is my hope? What do I want more than anything else?
4. What is my attitude toward sin? How much planning and effort do I put into overcoming my sins?
5. How do I get rid of the sins in my life?

***Insight:***

God loves us so much that we are called children of God. Some of us struggle with the thought that we are not special in the eyes of anyone. But there can be nothing more special than being a child of God. Knowing that this is our status in God’s eyes should make us happy for the rest of our lives. God loves us as his own children. Even if the world does not see us that way, God sees us that way and that is how we should see each other. Every disciple of Jesus is a loved child of God. Therefore, we should treat each other as fellow children of God.

John says that “when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” He says that if this is what we hope for we will be purified. Becoming like Jesus and seeing him, should be what we want more than anything else in the world. As children of God we are destined to be conformed to the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29). Becoming like Jesus is not only reserved for the most spiritual among us. Becoming like Jesus is the destination of every disciple of Jesus. If we remain faithful, at some point we will become like Jesus. Is this our hope? If this is our hope, we purify ourselves.

Sin is serious because sin is breaking God’s law. When the law is broken, the lawbreaker must be punished. In this sense we should consider sin like a crime. Most of us would never consider committing a crime. Why? Because we are afraid of the punishment. So we go through our lives making sure we do not commit crimes. If this is our attitude toward human law how much more serious should we be about breaking God’s law? How serious are we about sin? That we are saved by grace, and live under the grace of God, does not reduce the seriousness of sin. Committing a sin is worse than committing a crime and we should treat it that way.

Jesus came to take away our sins. If we live in him, we cannot keep on sinning. To “continue to sin” is to have “a lifestyle of unrepented … sinfulness” (Douglas Jacoby). Are there sins you are not repenting of? If you are, then you are continuing to sin. Remember that if we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received a knowledge of the truth so sacrifice for sins is left (Hebrews 10:26). It doesn’t matter what our role is in the church or what great achievements we have as a Christian, or what great sacrifice we make as a disciple, if we continue to sin, we don’t really have Jesus. Denying ourselves is absolute requirement for a follower of Jesus.

If we truly have seen Jesus and know Jesus, we will not keep on sinning. Inevitably it is our relationship with Jesus which motivates us not to sin. So when we are struggling with sin, the best way to overcome is to focus on our relationship with Jesus. If we have started to sin, it means we have drifted away from Jesus. Can you imagine committing a sin in front of Jesus? If we see Jesus we will not sin. Jesus must be a constant presence in our life. We need to open our eyes and see him with us all the time. So when we do sin, it’s because we have forgotten he is there or we feel that he is far away from us. So our repentance requires us to remember Jesus and go back to him. The closer we are to Jesus, the farther away we are from sin. When we study the Bible with someone and we challenge her to overcome her sins, the best thing we can do for her is to help her get closer to God. When we are challenging a fellow Christian to repent, it is not enough that we point out to him what his sins are and what he should do. We need to help him get close to God again.

As children of God let us hold on to the hope of becoming like Jesus by seeing him and knowing him more every day.