**Lessons from a Lockdown**

**Volume II**

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**Day 90**

**3 John 1:11-14**

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone —and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. What traits have I imitated from other people? Which of the things I have imitated are good?

2. Would I be a good model for people to imitate? Why? What good am I doing that people should imitate?

3. How do I see God?

4. What is my reputation among Christians?

5. Why is speaking face-to-face better than written communication?

***Insight:***

As children we have the tendency to imitate our parents. As adults we tend to imitate people we admire. As Christians we should imitate what is good.

First of all, we should imitate Jesus. We should study his life and his words so we can capture his heart. We need to learn to live like him and love like him. This is our life-long project. We should never stop imitating Jesus. We should always be thinking how we can be more like Christ. What Christlike trait are you focusing on now?

Second, we should imitate the good characteristics of people we read about in the Bible. We should emulate Abraham's faith, Noah's obedience, Moses' humility, David's devotion to God, Joseph's resilience, Daniel's diligence, Peter's perseverance, Paul's zeal for the mission and John's passion for love and truth. There are many more great examples in the Bible we can reproduce in our own lives. Who is your favorite Bible character and how are you striving to be like him or her?

Third, we should imitate fellow Christians who are doing what is good. We should copy those with great marriages and those who bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. We should emulate godly obedient children who bring honor to their parents. We should imitate singles who are undivided in their devotion to God and students who are zealous for God while excelling in their academics. We should have childlike faith like those in our Seniors ministry. We should copy those who are righteously excellent in their workplace and active in reaching out to the lost. We should be like those who help the weak and struggling in their faith. We should observe the good that other people do and imitate them. This is the best and quickest way to learn. What are the good things we are able to do now because we imitated the good other people are doing?

Anyone who does what is evil does not see God. If we see God, we will be too ashamed or too afraid to sin right in front of him. He always sees us but sometimes we forget that and so we sin. So we should strive to see God all the time so that we don't do evil.

We see God when we pray and meditate on his word. We see God when we look at the beauty of his creation, when we seek him, and we remember everything he has done for us. We see him when we study the Bible with people and when we disciple each other. We see God when we help the poor and needy. We see God when we sing and worship God with all our hearts. Have you been seeing God regularly?

Demetrius was well spoken of. He had a good reputation. Let us strive to have a good reputation among all believers. How would other Christians describe you? How would the most spiritual disciples describe you? Of course we shouldn't be people pleasers but God pleasers. Neither do we want a good reputation to bring honor to ourselves but in order to bring honor to God. Would God speak well of you?

We need to strive to be worthy of imitation. We are all preachers in the sense that we preach with our lives. Being worthy of imitation is particularly important if we are parents. Our children would naturally follow our example more than our words. Bringing them to church or even studying the Bible with them would be useless if our lives preach a different message. This is also true if we are leading people. Other Christians, especially those younger than us, will take their cue from us. They will determine what is acceptable behavior based on what we approve of or what we tolerate. We should also strive to be worthy of imitation for the sake of the lost. The gospel becomes more attractive when we live gospel-worthy lives.

Reading about the truth is powerful and life-changing. But having the truth spoken to us through a person who is a good example has even more impact. That is why preaching, discipleship and fellowship will always be needed in the church. Written messages can be great lesson. But the best lessons are those learned from each other face to face.

Let us learn our lessons and be the lesson for others.