

LESSONS FROM AN EXILE

March 22, 2020

I. THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER IN ISOLATED TIMES

1. Remember Who You Are

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

A. You are a human being.

- Being a Christian does not make you immune to being a human.
- Suffering is a part of our human condition.

B. You are a resident of God's Kingdom.

Revelation 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Our true identity is not found in the breaking news of this nation but in the eternal truth of God's Kingdom.

C. You have a great purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Purpose gives us patience.

2. Remember What To Do

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

A. Find the new normal.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- Do not allow the fantasy of where you wish you were to rob you of the reality of where you really are.

- Disappointment is often the catalyst for great things.

B. Keep up routines.

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

- Find ways to keep your life in rhythm.
- Sounds are often louder in silence. Be careful what you are listening to.
- Your response today will be what others remember tomorrow.

C. Prioritize your soul.

Revelation 1:10-11 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

- Listen for God's voice in the midst of all of the noise.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- Find ways to speak God's Words over all of the noise.

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- The state of your soul will determine the state of your self.

3. Remember Who Jesus Is

A. Jesus is glorious.

Revelation 1:12-16 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

- The glory of Christ overshadows the darkness of crisis.

B. Jesus is alive.

Revelation 1:17-18 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

- The God of life is with us in our grief.

Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

C. Jesus is present.

Revelation 1:13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

- In this season of isolation listen for the voice of your best friend.