

LESSON'S WE LEARNED FROM THE LOCKDOWN PART II JULY 31-AUGUST 1, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- Anytime you go through a tough journey it is important to stop and assess what happened; to understand it.
- Like many of you I learned some surprising lessons during Covid lockdown.
- Covid lockdown was for many of us a wakeup call.
- Last week we talked about health and money; today our spiritual lives.
- Crisis allows us to see the real state of the people in our church family.

I. WERE YOU READY FOR DIFFICULT DAYS?

- II Timothy 3:1 NLT, "You should know this, Timothy that in the last days there will be very difficult times."
- John 16:33, "...in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation..."
- Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- Many of us responded to Covid with fear; a fear level higher than anything we had ever experienced.
- Faith and fear don't live together.
- Christians have historically faced difficult days different than the world.
- Christians focused on the priority of sitting in the presence of Jesus.
- Trusting in spite of circumstances.
- When believers did this, they found hope, and then they helped others.

- Many of us have struggled with feelings of inadequacy and low productivity.
- Many of us found ourselves disillusioned.
- The power of Jesus emerges powerfully when our lives no longer work.

II. HOW DID EARLY CHRISTIANS HANDLE PANDEMICS

- Those in the early church faced two life-threatening epidemics within its first 200 years.
- Christians, who were then just a very small minority, exerted extraordinary impact on their societies.
- Sociologist Rodney Stark states that the Christian community survived and thrived for three reasons:
 - First, Christians laid themselves down and comforted those who were dying.
 - Second, Christians bolstered by their faith seemed to endure hardships better than others.
 - Third, Stark goes on to say; while the world is constrained by fear, we take on a different posture.

III. HOW THEN ARE WE TO RESPOND?

- Pray...that should always be our first default.
- Worship, read the Word, and don't lose hope.
- Care for others.
- Ephesians 3:16-19, "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being...to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..."
- Christians are called on to see life empowered by hope.

CLOSE

- That means we must reassess our walk with God.