Lessons Learned In Exile

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INTRODUCTION

- Do you feel like you've been somewhat in exile?
- But throughout it all, we have been able to track it by the number of times we said back to normal.
- God's people from time to time have been in exile, haven't they? They've been isolated from one another, and there are some lessons to be learned from that.

1 Exile Teaches Long Suffering

Deuteronomy 26:5–9; Romans 12:12

- Then we cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression.
- Surely one of the lessons they should have learned through that exile, through that bondage in Egypt, is long suffering.
- In his time, we must learn endurance and patience and long suffering.
- The only way to truly learn long suffering … is through suffering.
- Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.

2 Isolation Is Hard, But Better Days Are Ahead

Psalm 142

- The lesson of David in exile is that isolation is hard. But better days are ahead.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise your name.
- We do not appreciate what we have until we lose it.
- And we'll never fail to appreciate assembling on the Lord's day. That will never take it for granted again.

3 God Still Sees His People

Romans 8:22; Daniel 9:17–18

- This world in which we live is not heaven. It's not the paradise of Eden, because sin has corrupted this life.
- For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pains together until now.
- Though God is not judging us with this virus, there are still lessons that we can learn from a time in which God was judging his people.
- O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations.
- Could not the all-seeing eye do the same? And see us still communing together and worshiping together. God still sees his people.

4 God Can Still Be Glorified in the Darkness

Philippians 1:12–14; Philippians 4:4

- One lesson that we can learn, joyfully learn from Paul in his imprisonment is that God can still be glorified in the darkness.
- The things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.
- Paul in the dark, dank prison cell is glorifying God.
- Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say, rejoice.
- I've seen acts of kindness and charity and encouragement in such creative ways. God's been glorified in the darkness.

5 During Our Exile, God Was Still Speaking

Revelation 1:9

- I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation … was on the island that is called Patmos for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- The lesson of John on Patmos was that God was still speaking. This did not silence him.
- Now God didn't speak to us through some vision … But God was still speaking to us through his word.
- I've seen more Bible study in the last two months online than I've seen 20 years before that.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Maybe you've learned in this exile that you don't want to be separated. But more importantly, you don't want to be separated from God.**

MY NOTES