

Objective: to enable every believer to capture/learn the most, from the radical restrictions of the Corona outbreak.

26 April 2020
NLBC a.m.

Capturing the 'Corona-Moment'

Prov. 15:31-33; Deut. 5:1; Deut. 17:18-20

Heb. 5:11-14

"It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." Gen. 41:52

Introduction

Many people around the earth are struggling with the *impact* of this Corona virus.

- lost their jobs, their businesses, their opportunities, their income, some of their freedoms
- much more time...how will they spend that time?
- Some people are rebelling against government's restrictions, because they fear the permanent loss of freedoms
- they are 'fed up' with being stuck indoors, all the time.

How to do nothing? The usual structure or routines of living have been removed...a new order of living is forced upon you...who forced it? It cannot create, it can only prescribe and enforce the external...what about the internal? Life is lived from the inside out... "heart-life vs money/things life"

Jer. 10:2 says, "This is what the Lord says: "Do not **learn the ways** of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them." Learn to access grace and live differently, than to follow those whose decisions are governed by emotion and circumstance.

***God often uses the external to get to our internal. We face losses that we might rediscover what is most valuable. We face hardships to learn patience, longsuffering, forgiveness, and endurance. Often God's people wonder 'why?' things occur.*

The most important 'take-away' from trouble, is 'what have you learned/gained from it?'

Prov. 16:2 TMV says, "Humans are satisfied with whatever looks good; GOD probes for what is good."

How do we get the most from this great trial?

Isa. 26:9-10 says, "My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. **When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn** righteousness. **Though grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn** righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing **evil** and regard not the majesty of the Lord.

Capturing the 'Corona-Moment' – Mastering the Lessons

Prov. 15:31-33 NKJV says, "**The ear that hears the rebukes of life**, will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke, gets

understanding. The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, and before honour, *is* humility.”

Isa. 33:6 says, “He will be the sure foundation for your times, **a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge**; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.”

The great lessons of, life and living, in this ‘classroom of life.’

Rediscovering Mislaid Values

“I’ve got it here somewhere...I’ve just mislaid it....”

We have in the treasury of our beliefs, certain things that are precious to us. Sometimes we don’t realise how precious and valuable those things are until they are under threat. The most precious ‘things,’ are *not, things*.

Often Mislaid Values

1. Time – Eph. 5:16 KJV says, “**Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil.” Col. 4:5 KJV says, “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, **redeeming the time.**” Redeeming the time...giving its consumption its greatest value--normal structure or schedule has been removed.

What are you ‘**learning**’ to do with all the ‘extra time?’
Are you praying more? Are you hearing more? Is your soul more calm than ever?

Around the globe there is more prayer being made and more intercession being made, probably, than in human history. This trouble has prompted God's people to discover more time to pray and more 'prayer-all-the-time' than ever. 1 Thes. 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing...." Acts 6:4.

2. Relationships – my beloved, Rom. 16:8,9 – 1 John 4:7, 8, 11,12. When you can't meet your friends, or family or church family...it is a great loss. Life is: *people and relationships*.

3. Faith – is not merely a biblical understanding, but the basis for all of living – Faith is the 'provider' of all things, both material and spiritual. Everything good in your life that has eternal value, comes from your faith.

1. You believe faith is necessary.
2. You believe faith is powerful.
3. You have exercised it before.
4. You realise you need greater faith, than you have ever needed it.

Who conquered Goliath? David, of course, but a little way down the road, he had so many challenges that he ran away and hid...

Deut. 33:12 says, "Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders."



4. Intimacy – being close to Him – discovering a ‘new level of prayer’ relationship to the Lord. Jer. 30:21-22 says, “I will bring him near and he will come close to me, **for who is he who will devote himself to be close to me?**’ declares the Lord. “So, you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

In the midst of our trial, God, our Heavenly Father is calling us to Him.

5. Humility – you know that the proud “...He knows afar off”...Rediscover this truth of humility, dependence and reliance in new ways--you have to ‘find Jesus’ more significantly when testing comes...

Deut. 8:2-3 says, “Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your

heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. **He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you** that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

Ps. 119:71, 72 NETB says, “It was good for me to suffer, so that I might learn your statutes. The law you have revealed is more important to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver.”

Sometimes, we can think there are no major changes we need to make. Hard things are often necessary, to get us to reconsider that instinctive position, and dig into the grace that is available, to make major changes, in our lifestyle and approach to the Christian life.

Ps. 18:27; Ps. 25:9; Ps. 147:6; Isa. 66:2; Dan. 4:37.

James 4:10 – we humble ourselves, rather than requiring God to humble us. We acknowledge our deep dependence upon Him, and we live accordingly...

John 15:2-5 says, “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, **he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful**. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. **No branch can bear fruit by itself**; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine;

you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**

Isa. 64:8 says, "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. **We are the clay**, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Have you been acting like "clay" or being the "Potter of your own life?"

Isa. 66:1-2 says, "This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. **Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?** Has not my hand made all these **things**, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord. "This is the one I esteem: **he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my Word.**"

Application

Take some time today to **read aloud** with your family and discuss, Ps. 32:6-11. Each one, including the smaller children, can contribute their thoughts as they learn what Christians do in the time of trouble.

Two songs to sing at the end of our time today:

If you know the old hymn, sing it or find it on-line. "Take time to be Holy."

The hymn:

Take Time To Be Holy

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.
Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends, in thy conduct, His likeness shall see.
Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.
Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

The second song is called, 'Thrive' by Casting Crowns