

# Insulated from Isolation

A message from our Lord!

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by

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With all the talk of social distancing lately, I thought I'd look to see what the scriptures had to say about isolation. At first, I couldn't relate what I found in scripture to our current situation, but as I thought about it, a picture took shape in my mind. See if you follow my thinking.

When I looked up the word "*isolate*" in [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com), what came up surprised me. To be honest, I didn't even think going in, that anything would come up. But low and behold – look what I found! I found 10 verses in scripture that used the word "*isolate*", and nine of them were from **Leviticus 13**. The last one came **Galatians 4:17** – more on that later.

In **Leviticus 13**, nine separate verses mention isolation. Of course, **Leviticus 13** is famously the chapter on leprosy and other diseases of the skin which were seen to make one dangerous to society. Because of that, people with these diseases were cast out of society altogether, barring the unlikely healing of their condition. Sent outside of the cities, marginalized to the point that they could be killed for failing to keep separate from other people, forced to shout out their desperate condition to any healthy people they encountered; "Unclean, unclean!"

I confess that there is a measure of that thinking that goes on in my own head as I pass by my fellow shoppers who, along with me, are hoping to time hitting the shelves just after they've been restocked in order to buy

the items which every other store seems to be out of at the same time. Flour, in my case; what about you?

But why am I so concerned with the health of others around me at the market? Am I the only one who's in there hoping I don't bump into someone or something that is carrying this virus? Or is the "*clean or unclean*" status of our fellow shoppers, really of no concern to us?

Frankly, we worry about the incubation stage (if that's what they call it) being 4 to 5 days, where someone could unknowingly carry the virus around with them – spreading the germs which will soon put them into that category no one wants to be in – *effected*. They couldn't cry out "**Unclean, unclean**" to us if they wanted to; they don't know they are carriers.

Now, I'm not trying to scare you. Quite the contrary; I am trying to help you see that God knew all along that some diseases need a measure of "isolation" (quarantine) to mitigate the spread of the disease. After all, it was God who gave Moses these instructions regarding the ceremonial state regarding "cleanness, and uncleanness." Our wonderful physicians have given us the same instructions as our Great Physician – ISOLATE. For a season. Until health can be restored.

What is our takeaway today? Well, I may be stretching it a bit here, but follow me back to that **Galatians 4:17** verse I mentioned at the beginning. Paul was warning the Galatian believers that there were people who were trying to turn their hearts away from salvation by faith, back to salvation by works – thus nullifying the work of Christ Jesus on the cross.

I want to warn you about something in this COVID-19 "storm." Do not discount the love of God to be at work in your life regarding this storm.

Do not give way to fear-mongering in the press, or even from Face Book-ers.

*<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;*

*<sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight. - **Proverbs 3:5-6***

Listen again to that great arbiter of wisdom – King Solomon, further into **Proverbs 3.**

<sup>21</sup>My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight,

preserve sound judgment and discretion;

<sup>22</sup>they will be life for you,

an ornament to grace your neck.

<sup>23</sup>Then you will go on your way in safety,

and your foot will not stumble.

Let us continue to use the brains God gave us. Let's continue to exercise proper safety precautions. But I titled today's devotional, "***Insulated from Isolation.***" Where does the "insulation" come in?

Well for that, I need you! I need you to go beyond your normal comfort zone as it relates to others within our local body of Christ. Try using our Church Directory as a means of checking up on everyone in our

congregation. Here's what I mean. EVERY DAY use the telephone to connect with a minimum of 2 people who attend our church. You might argue: ***"But I don't really know them; I won't know what to say."***

That's okay, let me help you.

**Me:** Hi, it's (your name). I just called to see how you (y'all) are doing these days. Are you getting along okay through this self-quarantine thing?

**Fellow Parishioner:** Oh, hi. Doing fine. No big concerns. What about you?

**Me:** Doing okay, going a little stir crazy, but I'll be fine. It's just nice to talk to someone from church for a few minutes. I really miss being out with everybody on Sundays.

**Fellow Parishioner:** Yeah, I hope this doesn't go too deep into April; I really miss Pastor Chuck's sermons.

Oh, okay – maybe that was pushing it a bit. But you see what I mean. These are people we worship with all year long. Let's use this downtime to work on our relationships within our local church body. I'm not saying we have to become everybody's best friend. But wouldn't it be nice to come out onto the other side of this pandemic, a

healthier, happier, more connected church body? I'm guessing God likes the idea – He's all about communication and relationship!

If we all did this each day (and I don't mean, keep calling the same 2 people every day), I know the Lord will use it to His glory once we are all back in church again. Don't pick and choose who you will or won't call. Just start where your name is in the directory, and call the next two people until you get to the end of the directory. Then just start at the beginning, and work your way back up to your name again.

One last thing. Ask the person if it would be okay if you prayed for them before you hang up. Don't take another 5 minutes; make it a 20 second prayer. Just encourage each other to keep trusting in God's goodness, and let's have fun with this. I love you all.

### **Prayer**

Father, it is awesome how much You love us! Help us to start brand new habits of love and care for one another in our church body. Use this time to challenge us to step out of our comfort zone, and to BE a blessing, even as You have so abundantly blessed us. Amen.