

Living in . . . Limits

by Lynn Trogdon



“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.”

John 15:1

In 2011, ‘locked down’ described my life for almost a month. Unlike our present coronavirus situation, mine was not due to government pronouncements. Rather, lack of vision—yes, eyesight—locked me down as I lost the ability to drive, read, and do normal daily functions. Simple things like putting away the dishes.

“Mom!” my son said one day. “There’s brown sugar on this spoon.”

“I told you I couldn’t see. You’ll have to check behind me.”

A complication after a touchup Lasik procedure had left me with fractured, blurred vision. The giant screen at church was unreadable.

The night before my procedure to correct epithelial in-growth in both eyes, the tension rose after three and a half weeks of living in a peaceful no-man’s land of acceptance. My shoulders tightened and crept toward my ears. My pen scrawled huge letters as I listed the lessons learned during that time of living within limits.

Right now, we’re all feeling the pinch of limits, aren’t we? And it’s beginning to bristle our tempers. Well, maybe not yours, but my temper moved beyond bristling recently. I put myself in time out for a day and offered my husband a much-needed break. Limits make me mad. Limitations threaten to crush my independence and freedom of choice.


Limits, in fact, got God’s earliest people in trouble, didn’t they? Here’s a few. (May I paraphrase?)

- “Don’t eat from that tree,” and Eve did.
- Noah and his famous ark floated in the flood.
- Wait until I give you a child by Sarah, and along came Ishmael (the son of another mother.)
- “Don’t look back!” Lot’s wife—a pillar of salt!

All these occurred because the people couldn’t—or wouldn’t—live within limits. And history curved dramatically for, well, for all of us!

Are you struggling with the myriad of limits placed on us in the past weeks? Go ahead, spill it! (Complete each prompt 3 to 5 times. Feel free to write on the back if you printed this. I hope you did!)

 I hate limits because . . .


 If only . . .

Sudden and widespread changes to your lifestyle may have re-routed your normal quiet time, Bible study, meditation and prayer habits. New activities might grab your attention.


 My new routine includes . . .


Okay, the air is cleared. Now we know. We all hate limits, right? We began this little *Living In* journey in John 15. Let's return and discover more about what Jesus teaches about living in limits with him.


 **Read John 15:1-8**


 Jesus's limit is . . .

Remain. Abide. In whatever way works right now. Thankfully, God doesn't mind different. He only minds being ignored. How have you changed or adjusted your time with God?

 Time with God is . . .

 If I choose to accept his mission and live within his limits, then . . .

 I sure wish . . .

 Oh, Jesus . . .