WHY OBEY GOD WHEN YOUR WORLD HAS BLOWN UP?
GENESIS 39:1-2; 41:51

Your world has blown up right in front of your eyes! The things that you never thought would happen to your life have happened. You have faced tragedies on all sides of your life. People that you thought were friends, were not really friends at all, because now you find yourself being talked about by those who “seemingly loved you at one time”.

You find yourself in a place that you never dreamed of. You have encountered the “blowing up” of your life. All the seemingly good plans that you have for your life have evaporated, and the only thing that is left in your mind is the memories. For so many people, when their life blows up, here is their response. They first of all blame God for all the bad things that have happened to their lives. Second, they turn away from God to a life of deeper selfishness and self-centeredness. Third, they shut their ears up to God-having been deceived that it was God that brought the bad things into their lives. Sadly, these things happen in all too many people on the face of the earth. Therefore, they never come to see what God had in store for their lives. The question has been asked a thousand times over- “Why should I obey God when my world blows up?” What good is there in that when my world has come crumbling down.

1. OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE ONLY RIGHT RESPONSE WHEN OUR WORLD HAS BLOWN UP. While there are a thousand things that happen to each of our lives, the reality is- there is only one response in life to all those tragedies that we face that brings honor and glory to God. It is obedience. In the face of all his difficulties and the blowing up of his personal world, Joseph refused to cower to disobedience and rebellion. He knew that the God that created him was a God that kept his word. And it is only in obedience that God is honored. As a matter of fact, God so honored Joseph’s obedience when his life was blown up that the Bible declares that God caused him to prosper. Why did his prosper-sure there was no alternative for the life of Joseph. The only thing that he had a right to do was to obey God.

While we live in a world where people are facing tragedy after tragedy, and calamity upon calamity, that never alters the fact that we have been created by God, and He has given us the power to obey Him, even when it seems that all torment is at the door of our house. The fact that so many refuse to obey God, reveals the truth of their soul, and where there soul’s loyalty really is. So important is obedience to God that He declares in 1 Samuel 15:22, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” God is more honored with our personal obedience to Him and His Word than He to all the sacrifices of money that we could ever give Him. Why is God so bent on our obedience? Because it is the only thing that brings honor and glory to His name, and it is the path that creates for us a life of blessings. When your world has blown up you don’t feel like obeying God- but God doesn’t call us to obey if we feel like it. God calls us to obey irregardless of our feelings. God is not selfish or self-centered, but rather He is the complete opposite. He desires that our lives be set up to be blessed. Irregardless of what may happen to our lives, the loss of family, the loss of possessions, the loss of friends, God will always honor His Word and He will always honor the person who obeys Him no matter what. In the life of Joseph he was in the house of Potiphar-not of his choosing, but he obeyed any way. He was in Egypt, a land that was foreign to him, but he obeyed any way. His obedience to God, was the key ingredient for all his future blessings-even though his life had blown up around him.

2. OBEDIENCE TO GOD WHEN OUR WORLD HAS BLOWN UP BRINGS HONOR TO GOD AND IS THE ONLY PROOF OUR TRUE DEVOTION. There is one major truth of Scripture that we often overlook due to our fallen nature, and the sinfulness of our world. We are in this world not for our own good, but to bring glory to God in everything that we do and all the events of our lives. As a matter of fact the Bible
declares in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

The reality of life is, light is always more visible during the darkness than during the day. The reality that God allows those dark events into our lives, shouldn’t shock us. The truth is, God has designed those dark events in life to bring out the “light of our life”. In the darkness of the life of Joseph, the “light of his life” was brought into full exposure.

The fact that there is no cursing of God, no mocking of God’s name, no reference of Joseph getting mad at God reveals one sobering truth- in the darkness of Joseph’s life- he brought honor and glory to God. The hard fact of life is this- we are not here for our own good, our own personal interests. We have been created by the majestic hand of Almighty God and we are going to live on earth for a season of time (it could be for a few years, or we could live to an old age) but the entire purpose of our entire life is to bring glory to God. “Glory to God” is God’s primary objective for our living.

In the life of Joseph, the events of the pit, prison, painful accusations, personal rejections, were not easy. But from God’s vantage point there was a divine reason- for Joseph to bring forth light in his dark experiences of life. Sadly, so often we are told that if we pray enough all our troubles will go away, when in reality there are some who continually face difficulty in their life, that is not of their choosing. But God’s reason never changes. He has a specific goal- that others may see our good works and be drawn to glorify the God of heaven.

If you have the feeling that life is to be a series of events that somehow are to be to your liking, and anything contrary to that surely can’t be of God, then you have a misunderstanding of the human life. Lives are continually blowing up day after day- but that person who responds right to the events of life- brings honor to God, and blessings to himself. The sad reality today is that, there are countless numbers experiencing a “seemingly blown up life” and because of the heart, they respond wrongly and bring pain and devastating consequences that even increase their pain.

3. OBEDIENCE TO GOD WHEN OUR WORLD BLOWS UP WILL RESULT IN FUTURE BLESSINGS. There was no denying the fact that Joseph faced that day in his life when his life blew up. But after the passing of time, when the dust had settled, his obedience brought about tremendous blessings upon his own life. God doesn’t want us to misunderstand the power of obedience and the wonderful consequences that it brings. The Bible declares in Deuteronomy 28:2 “And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.” God never forgets His Word. As a matter of fact, God’s Word governs His own nature. He must always do what He says.

The picture given in this verse is a picture of blessings running after that person who chooses to obey God. Though there may seemingly be day after day where there is no reward for obedience, the day will come when “blessings shall come on thee”. Such was the case of Joseph. In his obedience to God during all the storms, rejection, and persecutions, the time eventually came that his life was crowned with blessing upon top of blessing because he responded faithfully to God in spite of all that happened to his life. He responded with love and forgiveness to his brothers. He responded to Potiphar’s wife in a godly manner, not giving in to sexual misconduct. He responded to being sold into slavery with a spirit of servant-hood.

All his daily actions were not being overlooked by God. As a matter of fact, God makes it clear that it is seemingly in those mundane times of life that He is watching us ever carefully. The Bible declares in Psalms 34:15 “The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.” Why was it that Joseph was rewarded with blessings? Because he did that which was pleasing in the sight of God- he obeyed. Irregardless of what life may appear to look like- the truth is, God has a way of taking what seems to be a “blown up situation” and turning it completely around in such a way to bring about honor and glory for Him and bring about the best in our lives.

It was no accident that Joseph was blessed after he obeyed- but rather it was the outflow of God’s divine principles relating to obedience. While times have changed the principles of God regarding obedience never alter. He will always make it His business to bless that person and that life that chooses to obey Him when seemingly all things in life “blow up”. Not only will he bless, but His blessings will be specific. In the life of Joseph, he was given a son and named him Manasseh which means “God has caused me to forget”.

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Through the passing of time, and his spirit of servant-hood and obedience, God caused him to forget all the pain of his past. While it may not seem to appear that you will ever forget the events of today if your life seems to have been blown out of the water- the truth of Scripture is- God will not only cause you to forget but use your life as a means to serve as a blessing to untold numbers of people- all because you obeyed God.