

## **On Asking God, "Why?" Deuteronomy 8**

### **I. The Biblical Reality of Asking God, "Why?"**

Psalm 119:67, 71

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

Deuteronomy 8:1-4 (NIV)

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land that the LORD promised on oath to your forefathers. 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.

### **II. The Spiritual Necessity of Asking God, "Why?"**

Exodus 33:13, 17 (NIV)

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. remember that this nation is your people." And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

### **III. The Indispensable Liberty of Asking God, "Why?"**

Four assurances:

- The answer always brings peace and rest.
- The answer releases you from the control of your circumstances.
- The answer allows you to see circumstances from God's perspective.
- The answer allows you to rejoice and give thanks in any situation.

Genesis 42:21-24 (NIV)

They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us." Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. He turned away from them and began to weep.

## Genesis 45:4-8

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Joseph's five answers:

- To overcome pride and learn humility.
- To learn how to serve, so he would know how to lead.
- To be tested in the area of moral purity.
- To help bring his brothers to repentance.
- To learn to be compassionate and bear the burdens of others.

Seven reasons I was fired from my job:

- So I would rely on the Lord, not employer, for income.
- To allow me to catch up on home repairs.
- To help me spend more time with children.
- To strengthen the character weaknesses that caused me to be fired.
- To teach my children to trust the Lord, not my company.
- To enjoy what God has given me.
- To learn how to suffer need, so that I might fellowship with Christ.