

# The Costs and Benefits of Unselfish Living (Part 2)

Philippians 2:5-11

The life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50.

*As for you, you meant evil against me,  
but God meant it for good, to bring it about  
that many people should be kept alive, as  
they are today. (Gen.50:20)*

*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom.8:16-17)*

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you (1 Peter 5:6)*

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A. We must develop an unselfish attitude. (v.5)

B. We must not hold tightly to all our rights. (vv.6-7)

C. We must humble ourselves and obey God sacrificially. (v.8)

II. We need to look to Jesus as the ultimate model for how God exalts the unselfish.  
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*Therefore God has highly exalted him (v.9a)*

1. God raised Jesus from the dead.

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2. Jesus ascended into heaven after making numerous appearances to His disciples for 40 days following His resurrection.

*And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said,*

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

*(Acts 1:9-11)*

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*Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God . . . . (Acts 2:33)*

*For whoever exalts himself, will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Mt.23:12)*

B. God determines the extent of exaltation.

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*and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (vv.9b-11a)*

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*and bestowed on him the name that is above every name (v.9b)*

*and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ  
is Lord (v.11a).*

The name *Lord* refers to God's most sacred name in the Old Testament: *Yahweh* or *Jehovah*.

2. Jesus received the name that every created being will bow before on Judgement Day and confess to be Lord.

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*so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (vv.10-11a))*

C. God receives the glory of exaltation.

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*to the glory of God the Father. (v.11b)*

*for it is God who works in you, both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure  
(Phil.2:13).*

1. The Lord shows us how to live unselfishly and humbly. (2:5-8)

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2. The Lord shows us that our Heavenly Father will more than make it worthwhile to sacrificially obey Him. (2:9-11)