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Mostly Personal...



Photos supplied by Today - NBC

**"I'm actually glad
I got blown up!"**

At first glance, you might think James Costello is some sort of masochist – “Glad I got blown up?” Please! Well, before we write him off, let’s dig a little deeper.

As one of the victims of the Boston Marathon Bombing last year, Costello's photo appeared around the world immediately after the massacre. Standing with his clothes shredded and badly burned on the right side of his body, Costello was rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital where he received pig skin grafts in a successful attempt to save his right arm and leg. A couple of weeks later he was transferred to Spaulding Hospital where he would begin his recovery. Traumatized by the event, he wondered what good could possibly come out of the event.

As it turned out, one of his nurses was a young lady named Krista. "After sharing a handful of conversations I realized not only how beautiful she was but also what a kind heart she had. I somehow convinced her to attend a benefit with me, which turned into a few dates, which turned into a few inseparable moments."

Eight months later, during a 10-day trip to Europe with other victims and first responders, James Costello asked Krista D'Agostino to be his wife.

"I'm happy to announce that we will spend the rest of our lives together," he wrote on Facebook. "I now realized why I was involved in the tragedy. It was to meet my best friend and the love of my life."

Now I understand why he said, “I'm actually glad I got blown up!”

I don't know if Costello is a Believer or not, but he certainly illustrates a great principle. It's for reasons like this that Paul tells us, “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God.” As I've said before, the bad things that we experience may not be the will of God, but to be thankful for His sovereignty, oversight, and providence, even in tough times, certainly is!

It may be wisdom to take another look at that long battle you've been in. Reevaluate what appears to be an attack from hell. Maybe it is—but it may be so much more than that! It may be God helping you to rise to another level by being faithful in adversity. I don't think you have to spend your life in a storm, in fact I feel the Lord is saying to some of us that “this long, dark night of the soul is about to pass!” But, while you're going through your valley, make it a wonderful place of blessing as you lean on Him. You never know what's waiting as you come through to the other side!



I love you,
Pastor Stephen