

# THE GAME CHANGERS

Text: Isaiah 53:3-5

**Key Word:** Pain and Suffering

**Key Thought:** How Can Pain And Suffering Change Our Lives?

The last 19 months have introduced many **game changers** into our lives and those of the entire world. It seems like there is hardly an area of our lives that hasn't been touched but there are 2 areas I want to hone in on. I've noticed these are coming to the forefront more often lately. These game changers are **pain and suffering**.

## I. EXAMPLES IN THE 2020 SUMMER OLYMPICS

There were four notable injuries during the 2020 Olympic games in Tokyo, Japan. It was a poor location to begin with at this time of year with the squelching heat for any outdoor competitions. The indoor games lost a great deal of enthusiasm with no fans in the seats of their huge stadiums. Cardboard-like replacements along with the prerecorded sounds of cheering and hand clapping must have been depressive for the athletes. Yet what stood out to me the most were these courageous and discipline competitors who faced pain and suffering.

For instance, Crystal Emmanuel failed to advance to the 200-metre run because she was nursing a hip injury. Our Canadian pole vaulter from London, ON, Alysha Newman, failed three attempts of 4 metres 25 to advance due to her left shin pain. During her interview she felt she had let down her tremendous coaches, team members and Canadian fans.

Also Sandi Morris from the USA was unable to qualify in the women's pole vaulting because of her snapped pole that caused an awkward injury. Her valiant attempts were met with a devastating hyper extended hip flexor muscle.

Belgian's Thomas Van der Plaeston had to be taken off the field in a wheel chair after a brutal long jump attempt. Being draped with the Belgium flag showed the great appreciation they gave to him for his years of determination.

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD

**Have you ever become angry at God because of your pain and suffering?** Have you wondered what the purpose of it is? Perhaps there is little benefit for you but plenty of benefit for those around you depending upon how you deal with it! **Can it ever lead to something good?** It's never usually pleasant at the time but I've discovered many times that the outcome becomes more apparent as time goes on. The story of Job in the Bible is a key example.

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD (Contd.)

Anyone who was able to watch **The Passion of the Christ** did better than I did. We were going on holidays when it first came to a Cornwall cinema and I knew I didn't want those extreme images in my mind when I was trying to rest and relax. When I did finally watch it, I had to turn my head and close my eyes because it was just too much for me to watch.

**Why on earth would God ever allow His One and Only Son to die in such a brutal manner?** The Sanhedrin held a mock court during the evening which was against their law. Jesus was tried and convicted of blasphemy based upon the witness of 2 liars. He was forced to appear before Pilate. He was beaten, punched, spat upon, whipped with a cat of nine-tails.

*“The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long”*

*Psalms 129:3*

A crown of thorns made from Arabian Nebulae with four-inch thorns and believed to be 100 thorns was beaten into his skull that contained a liquid that would have caused his head to swell twice its size. (I've also seen a pastor's wife experience the same size of swelling due to high doses of morphine to override the pain of cancer.)

*“When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, ‘Here is the man!’”*

*John 19:5*

Then Jesus was forced to carry His cross until the weight became unbearable. He was taken to Golgotha and crucified. Seven major scars protruded INTO His body. One for each type of pain we experience through life. He had the wounds on His head: the wounds on His back; a wound on each hand and the same for each foot and finally the wound on His side.

*“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.”*

*Psalms 22:16*

“When suffering happens, it forces us to confront life in a different way than we normally do.”

Phillip Yancey

**Even in the midst of suffering, God's will is often accomplished.**

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD (Contd.)

\*\*\* The most painful event that I've ever experienced was back in 1982 when it was discovered that I had a hairline crack in my right hip. It was also discovered that the pin I had to fess my hip since 1970 had broken from metal fatigue. I was placed in a body cast to prevent further damage. The only way to keep the pain down was with strong medication.

The first night the man beside me passed away. The next morning the man across from me passed away. There was only me and a 92 year old man that had to be tied in his bed because he managed to get over the bars and broke his hip. I thought there is no way I'm dying before him.

That second evening helped me to understand perhaps apart of God's reasoning. The doctors said I must have had a massive jolt to cause the crack. That didn't make sense because I had just finished my first year of Bible college. I can't say sitting in a class created much of a jolt.

During that second night a new nurse came in to care for me. I just felt I should ask her if she was okay. She answered me "You are asking me if I'm okay?" But I persisted which was something I normally would not do.

She looked around and then pulled chair up to my bed and told me that her husband just had divorce papers sent to her earlier that day. I knew the medication would soon cause me fall asleep so I simply asked if I could pray for her.

She stretched out her hands and we prayed together. It was just a short prayer. But I realize by now that it wasn't the words of my prayer, but rather the sensitivity that God placed into my heart to recognized HER EMOTIONAL PAIN over my physical pain. It became a game changer for me. \*\*\*

"When you suffer and lose that does not mean that you are being disobedient to God. In Fact, it might mean you're right in the center of His will. The path of obedience is often marked by times of suffering and loss."

Charles R. Swindoll

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD (Contd.)

Was there a purpose behind our LORD's painful wounds?

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”*

*Zechariah 12:10*

*“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

*4. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.*

*5. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

*Isaiah 53:3-5*

There are 37 verses in the Bible that mention scars. **Blood scars are the leftovers of our pains and sufferings and eventually peel away and become permanent scars** . They remain although the vivid memory of how they occurred and yet fade away in time. Jesus' scars remain in heaven but I've never heard of anyone else in heaven having scars. Ours will disappear along with the memory of how they came to pass BEFORE we arrive through the pearly gates. **That will truly be a game changer.**

### Work Clothes

*“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.”*

*Romans 5:3, NLTS*

## II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD (Contd.)

\*\*\* Swiss engineer George de Mestral grew frustrated with a recurring problem. Whenever he went hiking, his clothes and his dog would get covered with burrs. The little pods were hard to pry out of his socks and nearly impossible to get out of his dog's hair. De Mestral decided to study his problem under a microscope. He was amazed at the tiny hooks in the burrs. The experience led him to invent Velcro.

Writing in Inc. Magazine, Jayson Demers says successful entrepreneurs all have one thing in common. *“Rather than seeing problems as burdensome forces of opposition, they see problems as opportunities—opportunities to learn, grow, improve, or adjust in a way that leaves them better off than before the problem existed.”*

It takes time to develop this mind set, says Demers, but if we train our minds to view our problems as opportunities, we'll become more adept at handling them with less stress and more success. Think of a problem you're facing right now. It may actually be a great opportunity to serve the Lord. He will use that difficulty for good if you'll just stick with Him through it!

**Problems are only opportunities in work clothes.**

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Henry J. Kaiser Jayson Demers

*“How to Change Your Mindset to See Problems as Opportunities”*

July 1, 2015

From Aug 5/2021 Turning Point devotional  
of Dr. David Jeremiah

C:\My Documents\WPWin(2020)\Sermons.2021\Suffering\Isaiah 53\_3.5.wpd

Date: Aug 8/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: “No Sacrifice - G

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- A. Crystal Emmanuel
- B. Alysha Newman,
- C. Sandi Morris
- D. Thomas Van der Plaeston

**II. THE EXAMPLE OF OUR LORD**

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*"When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'"* John 19:5

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