

Bible Classes

A word to teachers about Bible classes...

This year's theme, *Grit*, came from a simple question someone asked me a couple of years ago: "What do you observe about this younger generation?" I answered: "They are soft." By that, I mean we live in a quick-fix-give-it-to-me-now-i-am-entitled-do-i-have-to-work-hard age, which is not without its effects. This "softness" has increased levels of everyday frustration, exacerbated emotional anxiety, and led to varied forms of escapism. Hard work is a key to life. Suffering is a crucial ingredient to the proper development of character. For the younger campers, we will focus on educating what hard work and perseverance is and how it defines their character and influence their lives as they mature. For the older campers, we will, through the study of various Old Testament characters, come to a greater understanding and appreciation for the role pain and suffering plays in a healthy life. Our theme scripture is Romans 5:3-5; during the week, we will basically walk through this scripture with the culminating intent of grasping what it means to "glory in" the struggle(s) of life. The anticipation is that a deeper understanding of this topic will 1) increase our desire to never give up and work through the common—and not-so-common—frustrations of daily life, 2) lower our anxiety levels as we learn to embrace life's tribulations and accept the role they play in our lives (doesn't mean we have to like them, just appreciate them—amazing how just this altered viewpoint can reduce anxiety), and 3)

widen our arms to welcome difficulties and see them as allies; not running from them (or even to them, for that matter) but surviving and thriving them; the ultimate outcome is the forging of our characters and the hope to which it leads and the shame from which it will spare us. With these objectives in mind, let us look to the scriptures and to the past, in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 10:11, learning from them and growing, that we might become a generation to which the world looks as a resource for inspiration and direction during difficult times, for, it seems the world's suffering increases as does the lack of character and hope necessary to manage it and serve those it affects.

When you prepare to teach, keep the following two questions in mind:

1. Does the content of my lesson and the passion infused in my teaching have a natural tendency to cause a camper to become a full-time student of Jesus and the Word?
2. Would a camper, who believes my message, be interested in following Jesus as a natural "next step?"

Have a great time preparing and teaching the lesson you choose; thanks for your willingness to do so. Much love, Jeff

Some Helpful Hints:

1. Scriptures in [brackets] are to be read out loud to campers.
2. Text and scriptures in { } are for reference and context.
3. Questions, led by 'Q)', are to be asked out loud to campers.
4. Questions with no 'Q)' are rhetorical and food for thought.

5. Be prepared to have the end in mind when teaching: What is the overall message this lesson is trying to get across to the campers? What can I put in their pocket that they can pull out when they get home?
6. Questions are meant to keep things moving and get the campers engaged; use them and keep answers on target.
7. Don't be afraid to use the "pregnant pause" or a few moments of silence to generate engagement as well.
8. **HAVE FUN!**

Monday — Hard Work — Younger

[Proverbs 18:9]

Q. What does this mean?

Q. How does not working hard destroy something? Can you give me an example? {dad/mom not working hard to support family, lazy teammate or employee, etc.}

Going to play a game; focus on being a hard-working teammate.

Game: Deliver the Goods

- Supplies: 2 Boxes, enough envelopes and candy pieces (from canteen) so that there is one envelope and one piece of candy for each camper.
- Course: Start line—10 feet—Box 1—20 feet—Box 2; set up two courses; Place envelopes and candy at start line.
- Play:

1. Split group into two teams.
2. Each team lines up behind their Box 1.
3. First person puts piece of candy in envelope.
4. Gets in crab crawl position, stomach facing sky and places envelope on stomach.
5. Crabs to Box 1 and dumps envelope into box without using hands, then sits next to box. If envelope falls to the ground, they must return to the start line and begin crawling again.
6. 2nd person in line repeats steps 3-5; repeat until entire team is at Box 1 having successfully delivered their envelope into Box 1.
7. Original 1st person grabs an envelope removes candy and puts it on their head; then travels to Box 2 and dumps the candy into the box. If candy falls to the ground, they must return to the Box 1 and begin again.
8. 2nd person does same thing as soon as previous person puts candy in box.
9. Winner: first team to get all their candy into Box 2.

[Proverbs 14:23]

Q. What is a profit?

Q. How does hard work help you? Help others?

Hard work builds character and always brings rewards.

There was once a fourth grader who played a song for his piano teacher. After he finished, the

piano teacher asked him how much he practiced the song, for he didn't play it very well. The boy said "Yes, I practiced." The piano teacher said, "Are you sure?" "Yes," said the boy. "I practiced it three time each day." The piano teacher said, "Really. Play it again," while she timed it. "Do you know how long this song is?" "No." "Thirty-five seconds." "So three times means you practiced a total of one minute and 45 seconds each day. Do you think you are going to get better practicing for one minute and 45 seconds each day?"

Q. What might be different if he worked hard?

Q. What areas can hard work help you? School work, hobbies, serving, training character.

Q. What areas can your hard work help others? Taking care of siblings, help around the house, help dad/mom.

People depend on your hard work and the rewards that come from working hard. You will benefit from your hard work as well. Become a person who works hard and you will profit and help others.

End the lesson by letting everyone, who thinks they worked hard, get a piece of candy.

Monday — The Purpose of Pain: Job — Middle / Older
[Romans 5:3-5]

Q. How does this scripture make you feel? Why?

Q. What are your thoughts about the following quote:
“Wisdom is nothing more than healed pain.”?

Q. Why does it seem that some of our best lessons come from painful situations?

Q. Do you like this? Why or why not?

During our time today, we are going to focus on the “suffering” part of the building-character-gaining-hope process stated in Romans 5:3-5.

Recap story of Job.

- God called Job a righteous man.
- Satan was roaming earth. God asks if he noticed Job?
- Satan challenges the strength of Job’s righteousness; God allows Satan to bring pain to Job’s life.
- So, Satan:
 - Steals all his oxen, donkeys and camels,
 - Slaughters all but four of his servants, and
 - Kills his sons and daughters.
- Job laments and is visited by three friends, who try to console him via correction and their knowledge and philosophy of suffering and righteousness.
- Job stands firm in his position and discourse; God speaks to Job and questions him.

[Job 38:1-18]

Wow! God strongly confronts and challenges Job

admonishing him that he is a man and NOT God. Was Job so wrong in what he said? Hmm...let's see.

[Job 42:7-8]

No. God said the three friends spoke wrongly of Job and Job spoke rightly.

Q. Well, if this is the case, then why do you think God got on to Job so sternly?

[Job 42:1-6]

Q. Why do you think he was able to see God more clearly?

God is not just interested in your correct answers; he is concerned about your attitude as well. In fact, because you have been exposed to so much church in your life, you can probably answer more questions than I can about God and Bible and what not. However, the key is the attitude and humble position before God. Right answers won't get you to heaven. Right answers don't make a relationship with God. Look at the way Job responded. What humility! And this humble position allowed him to "see" God.

Q. What impact does this have on you at this point in your spiritual life? What might be different upon your return home next week or in the coming months?

Q. How might this understanding change your perspective on pain and suffering?

God had a purpose for Job's pain: it allowed him to see God more clearly and to grow in wisdom. Perhaps your suffering and pain has a purpose as well; perhaps wisdom is in store for you after your time of pain. It is important that you see the positive role pain and suffering plays in your life. Doesn't mean you have to like it. You can, however, decide to embrace it and see it as an ally in your quest to have character. The process in Romans 5 can't happen without suffering. Do what you must to humble yourself before God so you can see him this week.

Tuesday – Perseverance – Younger

Grab a bunch of decks of cards. Split into teams and have each team build a house of cards using the entire deck. {Let this go on for a while until you sense frustration and watch how people respond.}

Q. How did you feel doing that?

Q. How did you respond to that feeling?

[Romans 5:3-5]

Q. What do you think this scripture means? {can't wait to hear what their young and innocent views are.}

Q. What is perseverance? {Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.}

Q. Can you give me an example of a time when you persevered in something. How can perseverance help you?

[Galatians 6:9-10]

Q. Why would God tell us to persevere in doing good?

Q. Is doing good hard sometimes? Can you think of an example?

God's character is to always love and do exactly what we need. Strive to be like him and do good to all people. Some things in life are hard but they are worth doing and the rewards go to those who don't give up. Life is like a house of cards: sometimes it's easy but then a wind comes along and blows it down or someone knocks it down, you just got to **keep** building; it's the same for your character. Expound on this idea and close it out. Perhaps share about a time when you had to persevere through something and how it turned out for you or a time when you gave up and wished you hadn't.

Tuesday – The Price of Pain: Jacob – Middle/Older

[Romans 5:3-5]

Q. What do you think this scripture means?

Q. What is character? {Mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.}

Q. What is perseverance? {Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.}

Q. How does perseverance help make your character stronger?

Q. What fuels perseverance?

Q. What do you know about Isaac and Rebekah's 2nd child Jacob? Let me highlight for you. All found in Genesis 25-28.

- He was a twin, born 2nd.
- Came out of the womb grasping his brother's heel.

- His name means “he grasps the heel,” which is an idiom for “he deceives.”
- Took his brother Esau’s birthright by bribing him with a bowl of stew.
- At his mother’s guidance, he stole his brother’s blessing by tricking his father that he was Esau. {Be prepared to explain this from Genesis 27.}
- He seemed to live a life of getting things “easy” through means of lesser character and cheating.
- Afraid of his brother’s revenge so fled to the land of the eastern peoples, where he began his life.

[Genesis 29:14-30]

Jacob saw Rachel, fell in love and was willing to work for seven years for her. Night of wedding, Laban tricked Jacob with Leah, had to work another seven years for Rachel. Jacob ended up working for Laban, who was a mean and deceitful father-in-law, for 20 years.

Q. How did Jacob feel about this? What do you think it was like for Jacob all those years? {Taste of his own medicine?!}

Q. Tell me a time when you had to work really hard and long for something.

Q. Read verse 20 again. Why did it only seem like a few days to Jacob? Do you think the 2nd seven years seemed like a few days? Why would he do it?

Jacob added passion and love to the mix. The fuel for perseverance is passion and love. What are you passionate about? What do you love-enjoy-interested-in so much so that

you are willing to work long and hard for it?

The price of pain pays for the reward. Not sure how long you will have to work for what you love but anything worth having will cost you something. What about God, Jesus, God's Word? Love them enough, passionate enough about them to pay the price for a relationship with them, i.e. changing your lifestyle, stop sinning, giving up certain unhealthy habits, changing your attitude, etc.? It may cost you effort, hard work, unhealthy friends, or material things; but in the end those will only seem like fleeting things compared to what you will gain.

[James 1:2-4]

Persevere like Jacob, don't be a cheat and work life so it will be easy. Let perseverance do its work so you will be complete and mature growing your character—like Paul talked about in Romans...and get the prize.

Wednesday – Trust – Younger

Opening Activity: have everyone pair up and get a banana. Peel the banana and cut into slices. Now, put the banana back together using tape and toothpicks. Have them show off their work.

Q. What do you know about Abraham and Isaac?

Abraham

[Genesis 12:1-9]

Q. What do you notice about Abraham from the start? Obedient

Q. How did Abraham respond to God? Believed, trusted him.
Isaac

[Genesis 22:1-13]

Q. How old do you think Isaac is? (somewhere between 20-30 so best scholars and historians say)

Q. How did Isaac respond to this situation? Never cried out or rebelled or whined.

Q. Why? [Genesis 18:18-19] Abraham taught him how to trust.

Q. Why would God ask such an incredibly painful and hard task of Abraham and Isaac? Wanted to test their trust in him.

Q. Who are people you trust?

Q. Why do you trust them?

Q. Is it hard to trust these people, when they ask you to do something you don't want or like? Why?

It is during hard times, when we don't like or are understand what is happening, that we can learn to trust God the most.

Blondin lived from 1824-1897 and was a famous French tight-rope walker and acrobat. His greatest fame came in 1859 when he accomplished one of his greatest feats for the first time walking on a 1,100-foot tight-rope suspended 160 feet above the waters of Niagara Falls. Blondin went on to walk across the falls several times each with a different theatrical flair. On one such high-wire walk Blondin crossed over the falls pushing a wheelbarrow. When he reached the other side, he asked the spectators

if they believed he could do it again. Everyone cheered. Blondin then asked if they believed he could again cross the tight-rope with someone in the wheelbarrow. Everyone cheered trusting that he could do it and wanting to see this incredible stunt. Blondin then asked for a volunteer to ride in the wheelbarrow. No one stepped forward. It was one thing to believe Blondin could do what they had all seen him do, and another to trust your life in his hands letting him push you across the falls on the high wire.

Like your banana, trust is hard to put back together once it has been broken. Remember to trust God even when things are hard and scary because he is loving and knows exactly what needs to happen and he will always be there for those that trust him. He will not let the wheelbarrow fall.

Wednesday – The Path of Pain: Joseph – Middle / Older

Split into groups of 3-5 and give each group a handout of the Story of Patrick, which tells this story:

Patrick had traveled 400km across Madagascar to reach the municipal land department. The bus journey had cost him half a month's salary and he had spent hours in the waiting room, but finally he was at the front of the line. Handing over all the necessary papers, he made a simple request: he would like to buy a plot of land so he and his wife could build a house for their retirement. To his surprise, the request was abruptly refused. Despite having submitted the official fees, Patrick was told that he would have to pay more if he wanted to see his

application progress. Like seventy per cent of people in Madagascar, Patrick lived on less than one US dollar a day. With no way of knowing if the money would really make a difference to his application, he refused to hand over the payment. When Patrick died five years later, his application was still waiting. He had tried for years to complete the registration, but was met at each turn with more demands for payment. After his death, his children took over. Again, and again they returned to the office, hoping each visit would be their last. It never was. As soon as it became clear they would not pay, the officials would tell them to make another appointment. Sometimes they would claim that the person in charge was out of the office, other times that documents were missing or incomplete. Patrick's family tried again and again year after year until they gave up after 11 years.

Q. Ask them to discuss what their reaction is and how they would feel. What would they do if they were Patrick or his wife?

There is a story like this in the Bible about a guy named Joseph.

Recap the following from Genesis 37

- J. had dreams about his brothers serving him.
- Brothers got mad and wanted to kill him, ended up selling into slavery to Midianites.
- Midianites sold him to Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the guard.
- [Genesis 39:1-6a] Joseph made the most of it and was blessed.
- [Genesis 39:6b-10] Potiphar's wife took notice and tried to seduce him daily. Joseph said no.
- [Genesis 39:19-20] She frames him and he gets put into prison. But Joseph was put in charge again.

- Q. Why do you think that each time (Potiphar's house, prison, etc.) he was put in charge?
- [Genesis 40:1-8] Joseph tells a dream to the two of Pharaoh's men—comes true. One of them promises to remember Joseph but he forgets [Genesis 40:23]

Q. How would you be feeling right now if you were Joseph?

Q. How did Joseph seem to be handling things?

Q. What happens to us when we begin to think life is unfair?

Q. How does it change our thinking?

Q. What does it communicate to God when we think like this?

- [Genesis 41:1, 9-13] Joseph is remembered, finally, and helps Pharaoh understand his dream and offers up a solution, which everyone agrees is good. (Do you think one with an unfair attitude would come up with solutions?)
- [Genesis 41:37-40] Joseph is promoted and is 2nd only to Pharaoh himself. Wow!
- Indeed, a famine comes and now Joseph's family re-enters the scene as they need food.
- Recap the gist what happens in Genesis 42-44.

[Genesis 45:6-7]

Q. Was Joseph on a path of salvation or suffering? Defend your answer.

Q. What would have happened if Joseph had not decided to be righteous or had a conviction at every point in his story?

Q. What does Joseph response say about his level of trust?

Q. Why was it so easy for Joseph to cry before his brothers?

God puts us on a path to prepare us for something; many times, that path contains suffering and hard times and yet we will find purpose in those times if we stick to the path and trust that God has a plan. Sometimes the path of pain is present to prepare

us for a role for which we were not ready before getting on the path. Even if it is “unfair,” it can turn out alright.

BTW, Patrick’s story has a great ending as well.

After 11 years of waiting and with the help of an anti-corruption legal center, the family received their final land title in just two weeks. Of course, this is just one of a flood of land registration applications. Yet this single case seems to have sparked off a change in the culture of the department. Today, pending applications are displayed publicly on a notice board in the office, making it far harder for officials to hide their actions from the public. Patrick’s case led to great reform and paved the way, an easier way, for those wanting what he wanted.

Let’s grow in our trust that God has a great plan for us; we only need to stay righteous no matter where that path may take us. Check your response to the life situation you are in? What level of trust is it communicating?

Thursday – The Cross – 9-12-year old

Share the story of the cross adding your impressions of various key moments and their impact on you. You are a teacher not a preacher. Inspiration is the goal. Keep in mind the two preparation questions on page 27. Talk about the shame that Jesus experienced so we would not have to have shame.

Thursday – The Shame of the Cross – 13+

Imagine if you were preaching and sharing the gospel through the message of the Cross, what would you say? Talk about

shame that Jesus bore so that we don't have to, so that we would have "hope that would bring us to shame."

Friday – The Power of Hope – Younger

Opening Activity – Do the Right Thing.

Divide group into four teams. Give each team a situation (laminated handouts). Ask them to read and discuss and be prepared to answer the question. Choose one person to report out the team's answer. The four situations are:

1. You pass an empty old house. In front of it there's a "No Trespassing" sign. But the front door is open. You really want to go in and see what's there. No one is around. What do you do?
2. A group of kids who you think are really cool are picking on another kid. They want you to join them, and they say you're a nerd if you don't. You don't want to be left out, but you think picking on the other kid is unfair. What do you do?
3. You're walking home from school, and you're really hungry because you forgot to bring your lunch that day. You pass by a fruit stand, and the fruit looks so good you can almost taste it. "They'll never miss just one apple," you think to yourself. And no one is looking. What do you do?
4. Your best friend asks you to help him cheat on a test. He's never done it before and he promises he'll never do it again. What do you do?

Have reports outs.

Q. What helped you decide what to do?

[Romans 5:3-5]

This verse mentions some things that happen that lead to hope.

Q. What are those things?

Q. What is character?

[Matthew 6:33]

Q. What does Jesus say to seek first? {righteousness}

Q. What is that?

[1 John 3:7]

Q. According to this scripture, what is righteous? {Doing what is right, not being led astray, acting like Jesus (Who is “he?”).}

Q. What do you know about Joseph in Genesis?

{Use Genesis 39:1-10 to tell about Joseph and how he went from favored son to slave to second in command.}

Q. Would you say that Joseph was righteous? Why? {He worked hard no matter his situation, he persevered every situation, and he trusted God always; that’s all the things we studied in our previous Bible classes and this led Joseph to obey God and isn’t that what being righteous is all about.}

The Great Wall of China is a gigantic structure that cost an immense amount of money and labor. When it was finished, it appeared unbeatable. But three times in all of history the enemy got through it-- not by breaking it down or going around it. They did it by bribing the gatekeepers. The guardians of the gates did not do the right thing and

took money. It wasn't the Great Wall that was broken, it was the character of a person which was broken.

As you get older, you will have many opportunities to be lazy and not work hard, to give up and not show perseverance, and to decide to not trust what your parents and the Bible has told you and ultimately you will not obey and be right. This will lead to a corruption of your character and eventually to a loss of hope because of guilt and a hard heart.

[Romans 5:3-5]

This scripture tells us that making it through hard work, hard times, persevering and not giving up will lead to character, which is the quality of a person to do the right thing. Make your character strong and you will get through middle school and be a joy to your parents and you will have loyal friendships. Your character is what will help you know what to do when you find yourself in a compromising situation like one of the ones we started out with.

Friday – The Power of Hope – Middle/Older

[Romans 5:3-5]

- Q. What is the ultimate goal of this scripture? {Hope.}
- Q. Based on what you have learned this week, what is the process leading to hope?
- Q. What is hope?
- Q. How is hope powerful? Give examples.
- Q. Can hope be learned? {What does Romans suggest?}

We are going to do an interactive survey so you can learn something about yourself with the hope (ha ha) that you will gain something very practical from today's class. Have everyone stand up and tell them that you are going to say four statements. If you agree with the statement, stand on my right, your left. If you disagree with the statement, stand on my left, your right. There is no right or wrong, so please be honest and give careful thought to what you agreeing.

1. Your intelligence is something very basic about you that you can't change very much.
2. When faced with an obstacle or a setback, I tend to say to myself, *"What a screwup; I will never be good at anything."*
3. No matter how much intelligence you have, you can always change it quite a bit.
4. When faced with an obstacle or setback, I tend to say to myself, *"Well, I didn't handle that so well; what can I learn from this and carry on."*

These are four basic questions developed and used for over 40 years to determine a person's theory on intelligence and in dealing with failure or setbacks, the answers give way to whether you tend to a fixed-mindset or a growth-mindset. If you agreed with questions 1 & 2 and not 3 & 4, then you tend to have a fixed-mindset; if you disagreed with questions 1 & 2, and agreed with 3 & 4, then you tend to have a growth-mindset.

Q. What do you think is meant by the term fixed-mindset and

growth-mindset? {Fixed-mindset: the belief that a person's talent capacity (ability) is set and can't be increased. Growth-mindset: the belief that a person can increase their capacity for talent and ability.}

These terms don't have much meaning until they are reviewed during a time of suffering or overwhelming obstacles. A fixed-mindset will tend to think and respond to hard times with permanent and all-pervasive responses, i.e. *"I screw up everything or I am a loser."* Permanent and pervasive explanations for adversity turn minor complications into major catastrophes. They make it seem logical to give up. This is many times called pessimism; this mindset never seems to make it to the perseverance stage of Romans 5:3-5.

A growth-mindset will tend to think and respond to hard times with temporary and specific explanations and strive to learn from the situations and have a propensity to think things will get better. This is many times called optimism; this mindset excels in perseverance.

One key difference between pessimism and optimism is the level of control one has. Q. Which one exercises a greater level of control? {Can you think of where the Bible speaks of self-control? Fruit of the Spirit. I love when the Bible confirms all our laborious studies. Why do we not just obey the Bible!!!??? Sorry. This both amazes and bugs me. Where were we...}

Q. Are the two words pessimism, optimism in the Bible? No.

Q. Is the word “hope” in the Bible? Yes, we just read one instance, hope is one of the three great concepts of the Bible— I Corinthians 13:13.

Q. So, how are the concepts of pessimism (fixed-mindset) and optimism (growth-mindset) related to hope? {The greater sense of control the mind has over personal well-being, happiness and growth, the greater the hope. Studies have shown that hopelessness is linked to a lack of perceived control. This whole line of thinking is where Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) was developed; CBT has been proven to have longer-lasting effects on depression and anxiety than medication. BASICALLY, WE CAN ALTER THE WAY WE THINK AND THEREFORE BEHAVE, WHICH CREATES CHANGE AND HOPE. We think we created CBT but the Bible proposed it sometime ago...}

So what does the Bible say about developing a growth-mindset? In the big picture, the message of the gospel—the cross which you heard yesterday—says there is hope for this life and the life to come. Specifically, listen to these scriptures: [Romans 8:5-7], [Romans 12:2], [Ephesians 4:22-24], [Philippians 4:6-8]

Q. Do you believe the Bible speaks of being able to control the way we think about things and growing in our ability to do so as we get older?

Q. If so, then what role does difficult times and suffering play in this development of this ability? {It is the canvas on which growth is painted, the arena in which growth is fought for, and the resistance from which growth strengthens. It is proven in

many psychological studies (see Grit by Angela Duckworth, pages 187-190) that stressful situations combined with a growth-mindset can lower anxiety and create hope.}

So, let's go back to where we began today: [Romans 5:3-5]

Q. What does this scripture mean to you now?

Q. What will you start doing based on what you have learned this week in Bible class?

Florence Chadwick, noted for swimming the English Channel in both directions, decided to swim the 21 mile stretch of icy water between Catalina Island and the coast of California. It had never been done by a woman, and at age 34, she was determined to be the first. The chosen date was 4th July, 1952, a holiday, and much of the country was watching on television. At several points during the swim, rifles had to be blasted over the waves to fend off the sharks. After nearly 16 hours in the water, she complained of numbness. She squinted to see the shore, but the fog reduced her visibility to almost zero. She called out to her mother and her trainer in the rescue boat that she couldn't go on. They encouraged her to continue, but when she looked to where she thought the shore should be, she could see nothing. She gave up and was pulled out from the water. Imagine how she felt when she discovered that she was only half a mile from shore. She knew she physically could have done it. Later, she told reporters that she wasn't making excuses for her failure, but "if only I could have seen land, I know I could have made it." She was right. Just a few weeks later she attempted the same swim, under the same foggy conditions, and finished the swim in record time. Not only did she become the first

woman to complete the icy stretch, but she beat the men's record by two hours.

I don't know where you are in your life journey: perhaps you are at smooth time or perhaps a difficult time. The Bible gives us the means to grasp and at least appreciate what no one on earth is exempt from: suffering and difficult times; perhaps this understanding is the "land which you need to see" in order to keep swimming. Whatever the case, decide and act to strengthen your character for the days to come and you will see the reward of hope and be kept from shame. And learn to glory in your suffering and in the suffering of Jesus because both brings us hope for this life and the one to come.

