

Suffering, Catalyst for Change

Acts 7:1-8:4

Pain: gift or garbage?

Leading question: *Are these things true?* (7:1)

Personal connection

Defense to the charges

God was not restricted to one land or building

Rejection of God's ways has been Israel's pattern

Conclusion: You accuse me of destroying God's Law,
but in fact, you have.

In every example, pain catalyzed God's desired change.

Abraham (2-8)

Joseph (9-13)

Jacob (14-16)

Pharaoh (17-19)

Moses (20-44)

David and Solomon (45-50)

Application and response (51-60)

Pain became a catalyst for change:

Change in the treatment of church (8:1-3)

Change of strategy for evangelism (8:4)

Change begun in Saul of Tarsus (8:1,3) (13-14)

Some takeaways for us:

The working of God is not limited to the "good times."

We must bear witness to the continuity of the Gospel of Jesus throughout history and Scripture.

Messiah, Jesus, is not an afterthought in the plan and purpose of God.

God's plan is diverse. He uses different people with different approaches at different times for His purpose and glory.

Hope of transformation still flickers amid violent opposition.

Pain can be God's catalyst for change in you!