

What Made Him Do It?

Max Lucado, author and minister, tells a compelling story of a father's love in his book, *You Changed My Life: Stories of Real People with Remarkable Hearts*.

It is the account of Jim Redmond's son, Derek, a 26-year-old Briton who was favored to win the 400-meter race in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Halfway into his semifinal heat, a fiery pain seared through Derek's right leg. He crumpled to the track with a torn hamstring.

As the medical attendants were approaching, Redmond fought to his feet. "It was animal instinct," he would later say. He set out hopping, pushing away the coaches in a crazed attempt to finish the race.

When he reached the stretch, a big man pushed through the crowd. He was wearing a T-shirt that read, "Have you hugged your child today?" and a hat that challenged, "Just Do It." The man was Jim Redmond, Derek's father.

"You don't have to do this," he told his weeping son.

"Yes, I do," Derek declared.

"Well, then," said Jim, "we're going to finish this together."

And they did. Jim wrapped Derek's arm around his shoulder and helped him hobble to the finish line. Fighting off security men, the son's head sometimes buried in the father's shoulder, they stayed in Derek's lane to the end.

The crowd clapped, then stood, then cheered, and then wept as the father and son finished the race.

"What made the father do it? Lucado asked. "What made the father leave the stands to meet his son on the track? Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. His son was hurt and fighting to complete the race. So the father came to help him finish."

What remarkable love!

It reminds of the story of another Father's love. God saw His son, His daughter struggling in the pain of sin in a race called life. He sent His only begotten Son from the throne room of heaven to enter the race, take the punishment for the sins, and offer a gift of eternal life to all His children. That is amazing!

– Beecher Hunter

