

Huddle

Stains, Stripes, Scars - Scars
April 14, 2013

Easter is past us and spring is in full bloom—what do you enjoy most about this time of year and why?

During this spring series, Pastor has challenged us to think about stains, stripes, and scars.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. NKJV

Stains:

Nothing is more frustrating than stains; especially the stain of our sins (transgressions/iniquities). To get rid of sin stains, we must

- Acknowledge the violation of God's law
- Confess and ask forgiveness
- Rely on the Lord's faithfulness and mercy
- Appropriate the cleansing Blood of Jesus
- Respond with thanksgiving

Scars are a natural part of the healing process. They result from biological wound repair in skin or other tissue. Over the years, your body becomes a historical document, in which certain dramatic moments are memorialized in scars.

"A man in Afghanistan once said to me, "No scars, no story, no life." Sometimes, the best story is in the space between the words—a space that is a window onto a different way of seeing. And when there are no easy answers, stories are all we have."

James Orbinski, An Imperfect Offering

If your scars could talk about your life, what stories would they tell?

There is something about our scars which make us real, believable, and trustworthy. Maybe it is because we know the good and the bad touch us all.

John 20:18-20, 26-27 ..Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

...Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. "Peace be with you," he said. Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" "My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

You may be here with some gaping wounds in your spirit and soul. If these were in your flesh, you would go to the emergency room and into surgery to save your life.

What freedom have you found by using these sin stain removal tips?

Stripes:

1 Peter 2:24 He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. Amplified Bible

Not only did Jesus stripes bring physical healing, but Peter makes it clear we are healed of our sins. Isaiah took it a bit further and said the Father intentionally laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He received upon himself our main sin problem - "we have turned every one to his own way". Our rebellion became the scars of His selfless sacrifice.

Our sin stains are the curse. His saving stripes are the cure. His severe scars are the confirmation, the proof, and the evidence of our healing.

How do you feel about Jesus taking on your sin stains and becoming your healing sacrifice?

Let's Get Real!

1. Jesus' scars proved He was both human and divine. Human - in He suffered the physical pain and scarring of great trial. Divine - in He overcame the power of death!

What impact does Jesus' humanity have upon you?

2. Scars are proof we have walked through crisis, injury, perhaps even deep pain. Scars are a sign we have experience. They are a witness, a reminder, and a sign of healing. Demi Lovato said "I think scars are like battle wounds - beautiful, in a way. They show what you've been through and how strong you are for coming out of it."

Which of your scars exemplifies a strong moment for you?

3. We are hopefully known more by our scars than our injury! Paul said, in Galatians 6:17, "For I bear on my body the scars that show I belong to Jesus". His scars were like an imprint of God's work in his life.

How is God's imprint marked in your life?

4. Some scar tissue is deep within and can't be seen. Those scars are an evidence not only have we been injured, perhaps seriously, but we have survived! The bigger the scar, the bigger the wound, the bigger the challenge, the bigger the victory, the bigger the testimony.

Scars are not evidence of imperfection; they are evidence of healing. Scars glorify God, who has brought you through to a testimony. They are God's evidence we are alive!

Walk it Out

Will you allow Jesus to heal your broken heart and bind up your wounds?