

Scars

Scripture: Galatians 6:17

Galatians 6:17 (NKJV) From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

4742. **stigma**, stig'-mah; from a prim. stizo (to "stick", i.e. prick); a mark incised or punched (for recognition of ownership), i.e. (fig.) scar of service:--mark.

Introduction

Paul is creating two word pictures in one here. He is first alluding to a slave whose body carried a readily identifiable mark of ownership. And he is also referring to a battle scarred veteran soldier.

I. Trademarks - Marks of ownership

1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ***you should follow His steps:***

Exo 21:5 (NKJV) "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' {6} "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and **his master shall pierce his ear with an awl**; and he shall serve him forever.

A. The mark of humility

Philippians 2:8 (NKJV) ***And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself*** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

B. The mark of transparency

John 14:9 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? ***He who has seen Me has seen the Father***; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

C. The mark of submission

James 4:6-7 (NKJV) But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 ***Therefore submit to God.*** Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

D. The mark of compassion

Matthew 9:36 (NKJV) But when He saw the multitudes, ***He was moved with compassion for them***, because they were weary and scattered, like

sheep having no shepherd.

II. Scars - Marks from the battle

2 Corinthians 11:24-25 (NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

A. Three of my scars

1. The scars on my chin
 - a. Cigarette lighter burn
 - b. Chin cut to the bone in a fall on the steps in Hatch, NM
2. Pencil mark in my right hand

B. Not so visible scars

1. The scar of divorce
2. The scar of moral failure
3. The scar of injustice
4. The scar of a business failure

III. Infection - Marks not yet healed

Hebrews 12:15 (NKJV) looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

A. Scars are not sensitive; infected wounds are tender

B. Infection comes when a wound is not cleansed properly

C. Infected wound will not heal properly

D. Infection must be dealt with

1. The old wound must be cleansed
2. When not dealt with will spring out unexpectedly
3. Will continue to cause pain and problems until dealt with

Conclusion

Our God is a God of healing grace. He will cleanse the infection. He will pour an antiseptic into your spirit, soul and emotions. He desires to turn the tender, infected wound into a scar that signals His divine ownership. Will you ask Him to do this for you today?

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Philippians 2:8

B. The mark of transparency
John 14:9

C. The mark of submission
James 4:6-7

D. The mark of compassion
Matthew 9:36

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2 Corinthians 11:24-25 (NKJV)

A. Personal scars

B. Not so visible scars

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