

## Every Scar Tells a Story

I'm sure many of you have heard the phrase, "Every scar tells a story." Unless you have lived an incredibly careful life, you probably have some scars. You might have a scar due to an injury or surgery. Every scar has a painful story to tell. Some scars are marks of honor, like of a firefighter, policemen, or military veteran, who has been injured saving the lives of others.

The main theme of Paul's letter in Galatians is the freedom we have in Christ. One of the demands from these Jewish Christians was to have all the men undergo a religious surgery called circumcision.

Gal 6:14, "God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor un-circumcision avails anything, but a new creation."

As Paul concludes the letter, he says to these Judaizers, "I have some marks on my body that is a stronger testimony to faith than circumcision."

Verse 17 says, "From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus."

Paul had scars and cuts all over his back, arms, and legs from the many times he was beaten and stoned. In 2 Cor 11:24 Paul writes, I was whipped 5 times by the Jews, with 39 lashes. From that verse alone Paul had 195 scars and each one of those scars told the story about Paul's love for Jesus.

Our lesson today is going to be about scars, and I hope that maybe I can give you a new way to look at them as Paul looked at his.

### **I. Not all Scars are physical:**

Our tongues are made from a tissue that does not scar no matter how badly it's torn. However, that does not mean the tongue never leaves a scar. Our words can be damaging and scar the people we love for life.

James 3:5, "Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"

Proverbs 18:21, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Proverbs 11:9, "Evil words destroys one's friends."

Prov 15:1, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but hard words stir up anger."

**II. Not all Scars are visible:** Sometimes we get emotional scars.

Think about how many scars people carry that are not visible. Financial, emotional, relationship, spiritual scars.

Isaiah 41:10, “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Matt 11:28, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Phil 4:7, The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Psm 34:18, “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”

Not all scars are visible, but the Lord is available.

**III. Not all scars are negative: Scars remind us not to repeat the same mistake:**

Psalm 37:24, “Though he fall, he will not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

James 3:2 says, “We all stumble, if anyone does not stumble in word is perfect.”

The mistakes we make in life are like scars. They are reminders that there are certain roads we should not travel. Mistakes are not always a bad thing because they help us learn what works and what does not work.

**IV. Scars reveal a wound that has healed:**

In Isaiah 53:5, we read this great prophecy about Jesus where he says, “By His stripes you are healed.”

Peter explains it in 1 Peter 2:24 where he says, “Jesus himself bore our sins in His body on the tree that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness, by whose stripes you were healed.”

The wounds of Jesus are the reasons why our wounds have been turned into scars. Jesus healed the damage caused by sin.

**Close: Today I hope to have given you a different way to look at your scars.**

Not all scars are physical. Not all scars are visible. Scars remind us not to make the same mistakes and scars show that we have been healed.

In this life we might accumulate a few scars, but the love of God will never let us go. Next time you look at your scars, let them be a reminder, not of how you were hurt, but how you were healed by the wounds of Jesus.