Scars

Ken Chapman · 2 Corinthians 11:22–28

INTRODUCTION

- Do you have any scars? Sure you do. We all have scars.
- We've all got scars. And those scars tell a story, don't they?
- The story of our life. And most often the story of the difficulties and the pain of our lives.

1 The Physical Scars of the Apostle Paul

2 Corinthians 11:22–28

- I think the apostle Paul would win that contest. Think about how many scars he had.
- From the Jews, five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked.
- Paul would say to the Galatian brethren in chapter 6 and verse 17 that I bear in my body the marks of Jesus Christ.
- Every one of those scars represented some pain and some anguish in his life.

2 The Emotional Scars Paul Carried

Acts 7:58; Acts 22:19–20; Acts 26:9–11

- The witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
- He made havoc of the church, entering every house and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.
- If we think Paul had physical scars, which he certainly did, don't we know he had some emotional scars for what he witnessed? For what he participated in.
- And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme.
- You imagine knowing what you know as a Christian to think I'm responsible for people renouncing their faith.

3 Scars Can Heal, but Sin Leaves a Scar

- No matter how bad scars are, they can heal.
- A scar is actually evidence of some healing taking place. But they still leave their mark.
- The scar is forever there to remind us of that painful experience.
- And the spiritual application this morning is, of course, to sin. Sin all too often leaves a scar.

4 Do Everything You Can to Avoid Sin and Its Scar

- Do everything you can, everything that is humanly possible, everything that's within you to resist temptation to avoid sin and its ugly scar.

- Every right, conscientious child of God who's burdened with the scars of sin would come to you and say, Don't do what I did.
- We let that embarrassment and shame keep us from helping others to avoid.
- Sin leaves a scar, and because of that, we should do whatever we can to avoid the scars of sin.
- The idea here is run away, avoid that sin, because that sin, if it finds its place in your life, is going to scar you.

5 No Matter How Scarred, God Can Forgive You

Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 3:20

- No matter how many scars you may have, no matter how deep those wounds may be, God can forgive you.
- Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.
- Even if your heart condemns you, God is greater than your heart. God's capacity to forgive and forget is greater than yours.
- The scars upon the body of Christ are what make it possible for my scars to be removed.
- God has promised to give us a new body, free from scars, free from pain, free from sin, and the results of sin.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you have any emotional scars this morning? Because of sin that's in your life, then why not come to Him and by His stripes be healed? Why not come to Him and by His blood be made whiter than snow?

MY NOTES