



~ Scars to Beauty Marks ~

“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.” – Isaiah 53:5

If you live long enough here on earth, you are bound to get scars. Some scars are more noticeable than others. Some are hidden and can barely be seen. Some scars are physical. Some are emotional. There are scars of anger, bitterness, abandonment or betrayal. Scars from wounds inflicted on us from others deep in our past and some that are more recent. There are scars from addictions like alcohol, drugs, or pain medications that can carry very physical realities along with them as well.

Because of our separation from God, we all bear the marks of sin in our lives. Some are physical, many are emotional, but all bear the scar of sin in their life. We have become quite effective at trying to hide them so they are not noticed by others. These scars bring shame and for many, these scars seem to never go away, constantly reminding us of the circumstances that brought them.

However, God has a plan to set us free from these scars. He desires to turn these scars into beauty marks that reflect His glory and His love. Instead of scars that tell a story of woe, they become a beautiful reflection of the power of God and the restoration He is working in our life.

“Thus says the Lord GOD: “On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.” – Ezek. 36:33-34

He gives us another picture in Isaiah 61:3, “To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

God knew our condition and our pain and He set out at the foundation of the earth to restore the beauty of His creation from the mark of sin. He chose to do this thru Jesus. Jesus came to this earth and bore our pain, our scars, and our sin. What we feel, He felt. What we endure, He endured. The temptations we face, He faced. Isaiah 53 puts it succinctly, “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and

carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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.

The scars we initiated, Jesus bore. The hands, feet, and side of Jesus bear the marks of our sin. He bears them for all eternity. Every time we look at them we will be reminded of the beauty and love of God who paid a ransom for us to be healed and restored. They will no longer be an ugly scar, but instead a beautiful mark of love closely associating us with Jesus forever.

Thru Jesus, God wants to turn our scars into beauty marks for Him too. *“So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited. Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it.’”* – Ezek. 36:35-36 All He asks is for you to turn to Him with those scars so He can begin to heal them. As you begin to walk thru the process of character change and healing, those scars begin to glow with the power of Jesus for others to see the beauty and love of God. They become beauty marks.

What are the scars in your life? Is it bitterness, anger? Is it selfishness or the love of the world? Maybe it’s the scar of loss or physical pain as you deal with health issues. Whatever your scar, Jesus is asking you to bring it to Him. He wants to take the ugly mark of sin and in its place cause a reflection of Him to be visible to others instead. He does this in our character and even in the midst of our circumstances. What do our scars say to others? Do they reflect the sin of the world or are they becoming beauty marks reflecting the beauty of Jesus? Take the steps today to bring Him your scars so He can turn them into beauty.

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

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