

## Scars

### Week #4 – Righteous Scars

You will suffer for your faith.

- Job 6:2-3 - *“If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas.”*
- Psalm 22:6-11 - *But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him...” Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.*
- Acts 14:6,19 - *But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country... Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.*
- Mark 8:34 - *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”*

In the midst of suffering, God’s grace is sufficient.

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 - *I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.*
- Psalm 61:1-2 - *Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*
- 2 Corinthians 12:10 - *... for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

In the midst of suffering, we help those suffering.

- Acts 14:20 - *But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.*
- Galatians 6:2 - *Carry each other’s burdens.*

### **Points To Ponder**

1. Whether from a relationship that ended because of your relationship with Jesus or from suffering for standing up for Jesus, what scars do you bear because you are a Christian? Based on the example of Paul, what kind of response should these scars produce?
2. A or D - If we don't bear righteous scars, there is something wrong with our faith. Why? (Consider not everyone's scars are the same, and that scars come in many shapes and sizes.)
3. How can the righteous scars I bear, both serve as a reminder of who I am and encouragement to other Christians?
4. Assignment: Think of 1 person you know that has righteous scars, and consider how you might help them bear the burden of suffering.

Homework: Matthew 25:1-13