



SCARS

2 Corinthians 11:24

Scars Talk! – 2 Corinthians 11:24, 25

- 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned.



Scars Talk! – Acts 14:19

But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.



Scars Talk! – Galatians 6:17

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



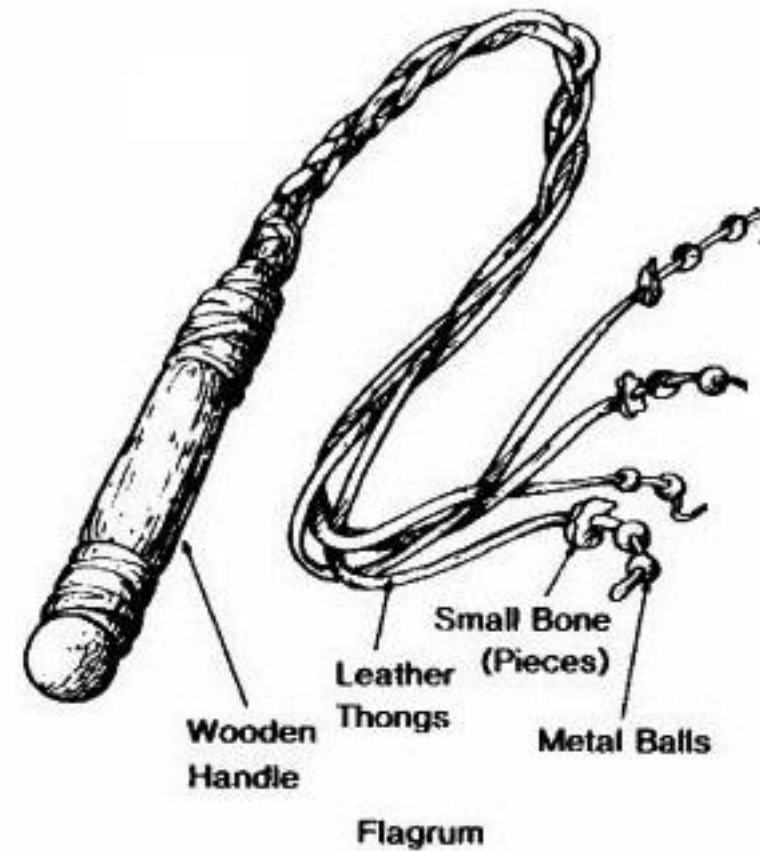
Scars Talk! Acts 5:40

- **Acts 5:40** “...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.”
- **Jesus** (John 19:1; Matt. 27:26; Jn. 20:27)



What do these scars say?

- “I’m telling you the truth!”
- “I love you!”



The scars speak! 2 Corinthians 4:8, 9

- **8** We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;
- **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

The scars speak! 2 Corinthians 4:10, 11

...always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

The scars speak! 2 Corinthians 4:12

So death is at work in us, but life in
you.

The scars speak! 2 Corinthians 4:15

For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The scars speak! Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

What about our own scars?

- **“Good” scars** - *those that come from service to God and to others*
- **“Bad” scars”** - *those that come from our sins and weaknesses*

2 Corinthians 11:28, 29

- 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.
- 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

How to deal with “good” scars

- A part of discipleship (2 Tim. 3:12)
- Prayer
- Consider examples of those whose “scars” far surpass ours - Jesus, the apostles
- Focus on the eternal (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Scars give hope (2 Corinthians 4:16)

- So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

Scars give hope (2 Corinthians 4:17)

- For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

Scars give hope (2 Corinthians 4:18)

...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

What about wounds from our sin?

- Repent – Take concrete steps
- Trust in His scars (Isaiah 53:5)
- Be thankful for the clotting and “scarring process”
 - *An open wound says, “I am still in sin.”*
 - *A scar says, “I have left the sin and learned from it.”*

What does all of this mean to you?

- The witnesses told the truth about Jesus Christ!
- Jesus loves you!
- How will you respond?