

The Scars Of Jesus

Gal 6:11-18

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

Getting on the Same Page

In Galatians 6:11-18, Paul concludes this beautiful letter. He is filled with emotion as he takes the pen from his secretary and finishes the message to the Galatians himself.

Paul summarizes the letter by separating the true Gospel of Jesus from the Judaizers. The Judaizers, he says, have come with force. Their motive is intimidation and fear. Their goal is to flaunt. Their message is anti-Gospel.

Paul counters these Judaizers with his life. He now boasts only in Jesus. He has been persecuted specifically for Jesus. In fact, he tells the Galatians that he ‘bears the marks of Jesus.’

Scars tell a story. For Paul, he had been imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, betrayed, and abandoned because he preached the truth of Jesus. The Judaizers refuse to suffer for the cause of Christ.

How about us? Are we willing to suffer for Jesus? Are we willing to surrender our physical and emotional pain to God, so he can use our broken stories to glorify his name?

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Discuss a physical scar on your body. What is the story behind this scar?

Study Read Galatians 6:11-18

- Observations? Questions? What was most interesting to you?
- Respond: Scars aren’t just physical. We carry deep emotional/relational wounds as well.
- Paul says the motive of the Judaizers was to “avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.” Discuss how we can have these same motives if we aren’t careful.
- Paul says that he has learned to only boast in the cross of Jesus. What other things do we like to boast in? How do those things get in the way of boasting in Jesus?

Apply

- Discuss how you can use your physical/emotional/relational scars to bring God glory/ Draw closer to Jesus.

- Discuss how you can encourage each other to suffer intentionally for Jesus, or at least to take appropriate risks for the Gospel. What might that look like?