

Zechariah 13:6

And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

Have you ever gotten a cut, or maybe you were in an accident, or even a fight and you have the scares from the past to prove it?

I know for me personally, I actually have 5 scars on my stomach, all five about an inch in length. Two on each side of my lower stomach, and one at the top of my belly button. You see, I had Prostate Cancer and the scars are from the surgery to remove my prostate. But still they are scars that tell the story of how I had cancer, and how I needed to be operated on to remove this nasty cancer from my body. That was about 5 years ago, and all praise and glory to God I have been cancer free ever since then.

But when you do get a cut or deep wound, you can put Neosporin and a bandage on it to help it heal. Sometimes even during the healing process there is pain, especially if you get an infection and it turns red around the wound. But over time it will heal and the pain will be gone, but the scar still remains.

The same thing happens in life, where someone hurts you deeply (I can see you shaking your head up and down even now as you read that, maybe some even have tears welling up because the wound was deep). Yet the hurt was so deep that it seemed that the pain would never go away. Yet it finally has, or for some, if the wound is still healing, the pain gets less each day.

But who can really understand this pain you have gone through? Jesus.

How so, you may be thinking? One name...Judas.

Here is a man who walked with Jesus, and not only heard Him speak and teach, but had actual conversations with Jesus asking whatever he wanted. He ate with Jesus, slept with Jesus as the twelve would go from place to place sleeping all together, either at someone's home or even outside under the stars.

Judas was one of the close 12 who walked with Jesus for three years.

† **Luke 10:1** *After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.*

† **John 6:66-71** *From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.*

Notice Judas did not leave with the other 70; instead, he stayed with the 12. Also, he didn't know at this time that he would betray Jesus, yet Jesus knew.

So after 3 years of walking and talking with Jesus, and hearing His words of life and seeing the many awesome things Jesus did; feeding the 5000, healing the lepers, restoring sight to the blind and even seeing Lazarus being raised from the dead, Judas still choose to betray Jesus.

So, who understands your pain? Jesus

Feel Jesus' pain as He speaks these words to Judas: ***But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" Luke 22:48***

Can you relate? I know I can.

But what good are those scars from the past? Well, if you are a Christian, those scars are a testimony of what Jesus has done in your life and maybe is even doing right now.

Think of how Jesus showed His scars as a testimony of His love for all of us.

† **John 20:27** *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*

I have a testimony of my scars from my surgery, of how I found out I had cancer, and the Lord gave me a peace about it, so much so that I was comforting others who should had been comforting me. But it testified to non-believers of how awesome the Lord is in my life.

I have many more scars that are not physical, yet are a testimony of the Lord working in my life also.

What scars do you have from your past? As a Christian can you testify of how Jesus has forgiven you, and even though you still have those scars, maybe on your heart, you know that Jesus has healed you from your past.

How many do you know that have those same wounds and need the healing, love and forgiveness of Jesus that He has given to you that you can share with them?

Jesus may have brought you into his or her life for this very reason, to testify of what Jesus has done in your life, that even though you have scars, you no longer see them as something ugly and disgusting, but rather a means to share the gospel and love of Jesus with him or her, or maybe even many who need to hear it.

† **John 20:20 (NLT)** *As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!*

† **1 Corinthians 2:1** *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.*