

Transformed – teen devotion – March 18, 2018

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Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

Luke 18:31-33

Successfully healed

Have you ever witnessed a “scar battle”? It’s when a few people whip out their slowly fading lighter patches of skin and start comparing tall tales of old accidents. Sometimes people seem quite proud, or at least able to laugh about their klutzy moments. However, they probably were not laughing when the accident first happened.

Scars often prompt painful memories even if they now make interesting stories. As a rule, we try to avoid those moments of pain. Yet, much as scars are viewed as past injuries, they actually show the place where your skin was successfully healed.

Some scars go further than just skin-deep. The pains of being betrayed emotionally, of guilt, or of the struggle to see ourselves as God’s loved creation can cut deeply into our soul. As with any physical scar, the impression can last even after the wound is healed.

We are not alone in that battle: Jesus also felt our scars. He felt the whip and the nails. But he also carried the sins of the whole world. He did not avoid the scars of our sins but bore them for us. He has given us the eternal hope of heaven and has promised us ultimate healing. He also promises to be with us and be our strength in every moment of pain while we are here on

this earth. We are being healed spiritually through Christ's forgiveness each day. He is growing and shaping us in his love so that one day we may have a perfect home with him where all those scars will finally fade away.

Prayer: Dear Lord, forgive us for the times we have been the cause of scars found on others. In your love, you allowed your only Son to be scarred for us all. Those scars have given us forgiveness and salvation. Help us find peace in you while we are still on earth because we know that all our scars and difficulties are part of your plan to bring us home to heaven. Amen.

This Lenten series we're taking a look at the scars we all have from our sin and from the sin of others. Ultimately it's not about our scars, but rather the scars of Christ which he took for us on the cross.

Teen  Devotions are brought to you by WELS Commission on Youth and Family Ministry.

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