

Scarred

Sometimes things happen to us that are so profoundly painful that they change us. We realize one day that we are not the person we once were. Further, we can't find the strength to be the person we want to be. We are scarred. We are crippled. We are broken.

Is there hope for people like us? Or is healing only for the healthy, and wholeness only for the whole? Does mercy flow only to the righteous and the holy? Did the Savior come to bleed and die only for the good, the capable, and the just?

When John saw Jesus coming, this is how he introduced Him:

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV)

Centuries before Jesus was born, Isaiah described Him this way:

He was...rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised...He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities...and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3, 5, NIV)

Messiah would tenderly care for His people, especially the weak ones:

He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart. (Isaiah 40:11, NIV)

During His ministry, Jesus summarized Himself in these words from the prophet Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners...to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve...a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. (Isaiah 61:1-3, NIV)

Jesus invited all the weak and needy to come to Him and find relief:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29, NIV)

The Apostle Paul repeatedly prayed that God would take away a serious weakness that plagued him. This is how the Lord answered him:

"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...For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10, NIV)

Paul learned God uses our weaknesses to glorify Himself:

We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2 Corinthians 4:7, NIV)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16, NIV)

Hymn: [Our Great High Priest](#)

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