

LIFE LEAVES MARKS

(John 20: 19-31)

Intro: I won't show you mine.
-If you don't show me yours.

But I have scars.

- I have a scar under my right arm.
 - #Where the surgeon made the incision.
 - *To insert a chest tube.
 - *When I had my collapsed lung.
 - +Couple of months ago.
- I have a scar on my left knee.
 - #From sliding into a home plate of glass and other junk.
 - *In a sheep pasture.
 - *When I was playing baseball with:
 - +Doc.
 - +Buck.
 - *When I was about six years old.
 - #No stitches.
 - *Just washed it out.
 - *Put a band-aid on it.
- I have a scar on the bottom of my right foot.
 - #From stepping on something sharp.
 - *When I was running into the swimming hole.
 - +At Iverson Park.
 - =In Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
 - #My first stitch.
 - *It only took one.
- I have a broken knuckle.
 - #From a basketball game in high school.
 - *This you can see.
 - #I grabbed a rebound.
 - *Somebody hacked me across the hand.
 - *Blood trickled from my fingernail.
 - +But I finished the game.
 - #I was just learning to type at the time.
 - *I couldn't put pressure on that finger.
 - *So I would jump over with the next finger.
 - +On the typewriter keyboard.

#My finger healed.
*But the knuckle:
+Misshapen.
+Wouldn't bend all the way.
#Next time I went to the doctor.
*I showed him my finger.
*I asked him what happened.
+He said:
="It looks like you broke it."
="I can fix it."
-"But I'm going to have to break it again."
#Once was enough.
*Thank you very much.
*So for over 40 years.
+I've had a knuckle.
=Misshapen.
=I can't bend all the way.

Life leaves marks.

My dad played softball.

-With my boys and me.

-Until he was 80 years old.

#One day we were at the park.

*At the end of the block.

*Where my dad used to live.

#My boys liked to take turns batting.

*So my dad would pitch.

+So he wouldn't have to chase around in the outfield.

#My other son and I.

*Shagged balls in the field.

#My boys.

*Getting to be teenagers.

*Getting bigger and stronger.

*Getting more skilled with a bat.

#Josh hit a line drive right back at my dad.

*My dad's 80-year-old reflexes.

+Weren't quick enough.

*Ball hit my dad right on the knee.

+It left a mark.

=You could see the outline of the stitches from the softball.

-Embossed on my dad's knee.

#That was the end of my dad's baseball career.

Life leaves marks.

I. Jesus Was A Marked Man.

A. Almost From The Moment Of His Birth.

1. Herod wanted to kill him.
 - a. When Jesus was an infant.
 - b. Jesus was spared.
 - Thanks to a dream.
 - #His step-father Joseph had.
 - Thanks to a super-saver family fare.
 - #On a trip to Egypt.
 - Matthew 2: 13-23.
 - c. Did Jesus?
 - Come to know about:
 - #His narrow escape.
 - #Death of the other babies.
 - Survivor syndrome.
 - #We would call it.
 - d. Life leaves marks.
2. Crowd in Nazareth wanted to throw Jesus off a cliff.
 - a. After Jesus' first sermon in his home synagogue.
 - b. But Jesus escaped.
 - Luke 4: 16-30.
 - c. That's got to leave a scar.
 - Life leaves marks.
3. On more than one occasion Jesus was accused of being:
 - a. Demon-possessed.
 - Matthew 9: 32-34.
 - Matthew 12: 22-30.
 - b. Not being in his right mind.
 - Mark 3: 21.
 - c. Life leaves marks.
4. Even Jesus' own brothers did not believe in him.
 - a. At least not at first.
 - John 7: 5.
 - b. Life leaves marks.

B. Jesus Really Became A Marked Man At The End Of His Earthly Life.

1. Marked with:
 - a. Lashes of a whip.
 - b. Marks of the nails.
 - c. Gouge of a spear.
2. Jesus showed off those marks.
 - a. To some of his disciples.
 - On that first Easter evening.

- b. Maybe like President Lyndon Johnson.
 - Showed reporters his incision.
 - After his gall bladder surgery.
- c. Maybe like hospital patients showed me.
 - When I asked them.
 - #How they were doing.
 - #What had them in the hospital.
 - They pulled up their gowns.
 - #Showed me.
 - *Sometimes more than I needed to see.
- 3. It was those marks of Jesus that Thomas wanted to see.
 - a. Thomas sometimes gets a bad rap.
 - “Doubting Thomas.”
 - #He’s called.
 - When he didn’t ask for anything more.
 - #Than his fellow disciples had gotten to see.
 - b. Those marks left a mark.
 - On Thomas.
 - Mark of faith.
 - #“My Lord and my God.”
 - *John 20: 28.
- 4. Jesus was a marked man.
 - a. Bearing the marks of:
 - Life.
 - Death.
 - #On a cross.
 - b. Who left his mark.
 - On his disciples.
 - On the world.
 - On us.

II. We Have Been Marked.

- A. Sometimes The Marks Are Visible.
 - 1. I have my scars.
 - 2. You may have yours.
- B. Sometimes The Marks Are Invisible.
 - 1. Emotional or psychological.
 - a. Fear.
 - b. Rejection.
 - c. Loneliness.
 - d. Guilt.
 - e. Grief.

2. Jesus has made his mark on us—a spiritual mark.
 - a. Baptism.
 - “You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.”
 - “And marked with the cross of Christ forever.”
 - b. Faith.
 - “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples,”
 - “Which are not written in this book.”
 - “But these are written so that you may come to believe,”
 - “That Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,”
 - “And that through believing you may have life in his name.”
 - #John 20: 30-31.
 - *Life leaves marks.
 - +New life.
 - +Resurrected life.
 - =Leaves marks.

III. How Do We Leave Our Mark?

- A. Early Church In The Book Of Acts Left Its Mark.
 1. Gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
 2. There was not a needy person among them.
 - a. Those who would like to believe:
 - Capitalism is inherently:
 - #Christian.
 - #Godly.
 - Socialism is inherently:
 - #Unchristian.
 - #Ungodly.
 - b. Haven't read the Book of Acts.
 - “No one claimed private ownership of any possessions.”
 - “But everything they owned was held in common.”
 - #Acts 4: 32.
 - c. But:
 - Book of Acts.
 - #In particular.
 - Holy Scriptures.
 - #In general.
 - *Not a book on economics.
 - *But a Book of Faith.
 - d. Early church made its mark on the world.
 - In word.
 - In deed.

- B. We Leave Our Mark.
 - 1. Showing up every week for worship.
 - a. Even the week after Easter.
 - b. Faithfully gathering around:
 - Word.
 - Sacrament.
 - #We are marked.
 - #We leave our mark.
 - 2. Food.
 - a. We bring for the Helping Hands Food Pantry.
 - b. We give away to feed needy people.
 - We are marked.
 - We leave our mark.
 - 3. Toiletries.
 - a. If you travel.
 - This summer.
 - Anytime, for that matter.
 - b. If you don't use:
 - Bars of soap.
 - Bottles of shampoo.
 - #From the motel room.
 - c. Bring them to church.
 - We'll pass them along to Operation Hope.
 - #For the benefit of ex-offenders.
 - *Who are coming back.
 - +Into the community.
 - +From prison.
 - Packages of new underwear are also appreciated.
 - #We are marked.
 - #We leave our mark.
 - 4. When we learn from the witness of the early church.
 - a. What is important.
 - Not what we get.
 - #But what we give.
 - Not what's in it for us.
 - #But what's in it for "the least of these."
 - *Matthew 25: 31-46.
 - Testifying.
 - #To the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
 - b. We are marked.
 - We leave our mark.

Concl: Life leaves marks.
-It left marks on Jesus.
-It leaves marks on us.

When those marks.
-Not just on our bodies.
-But on our hearts.
#We are marked.
#We can leave our mark.
*Those marks are always good to show.

