

THE BIG IDEA: What makes you different makes us beautiful.The Take-Off

How awesome was last week with Phil?

I watched that message and thought about how I will never complain about how hard it is to pronounce Bible names! Those names from Lord of the Rings were crazy, but the message was on point!

How often do we waver between the 2 extremes of being too humble or too proud and miss the unity that God desires for the church?

I felt like it was a perfect set-up for the movie and topic we'll be discussing today because today we're going to talk about one of the most powerful ways God brings us together in unity.

It's also one of the hardest, and that's why the enemy loves to camp out in this area of our lives.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

First, let's introduce the movie - Wonder - by allowing the main character to introduce himself.

[CLIP - Meet Auggie Pullman]

1. Scars are hard to show

- a. Whether you're a home schooler with a disfigured face going to public school for the first time or a divorcee who feels marked by the shame of failure or an addict who is aged by the scars of lost battles, we all have something in common: scars.
- b. And **scars are hard to show**, aren't they?
- c. **Rev. 12:11** / The enemy knows that it is our testimony that brings us together in power against him
- d. What is a testimony? The story of God's faithfulness in the tests we experience
- e. Those tests often leave scars.
- f. In our text, you can hear the struggle in Paul's instructions, the way the Spirit is dealing with our human inclination to "hide" what we consider "less than?"
- g. 1 Cor. 12:14-24a is filled with value statements about presentable vs unpresentable parts
- h. God doesn't make those statements - we do
- i. And then, on top of the normal part we've been called to play, we give the enemy an ear when the part of the body we are gets scarred (whether by us or by others)
- j. What happens when we are vulnerable and we don't experience vv. 21-23?
- k. In our next scene, we'll see how Auggie - and his mom - handled that after a hard day at school...
- l. [CLIP - You are not ugly]

2. Scars tell a story

- a. Auggie's mom knew something that we need to remember: our **scars tell a story**
- b. Remember Revelation 12:11? The story that is told by our scars is a powerful weapon against the enemy.
- c. That is why he works so tirelessly to make ALL OF US feel marginalized by our scars, by the vulnerable areas of our lives
- d. He whispers to us that "they won't understand" or he screams at us "they'll judge you"
- e. Sometimes, he's been right - the church hasn't given the greatest care to the "Auggies" of the body
- f. But your scars tell a story, and we need to hear it.
- g. Here are what our SCARS speak of:
 - **Survival** / **Rom. 8:37** / we overcome / IN all THESE things / What things? / things that scar (vv. 35-36)
 - **Community** / **Rom. 8:37** / WE overcome / you didn't survive these things alone / your story brings the body grace for what others face [CLIP - Seventh Graders Attack]
 - **Authenticity** / **John 20:25** / Thomas needed to see the scars in order to believe / **Gal. 6:17** / after writing a letter about how we're justified in Christ, Paul points to the marks (could be actual scars from 2 Cor. 6:4-5) as authenticating his words
 - **Redemption** / **Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28** / God can make the ugly beautiful again / we are His tapestry
 - **Salvation** / **Is. 53:5; John 20:20** / our scars point to His scars which point to His work of salvation on the cross / QUOTE: "The only man-made thing in heaven will be the scars of the Savior"

The most powerful part of our scars is the story behind them that points others to Him
Perhaps you've heard the song "Scars" by the band I Am They.
The chorus says:

*So I'm thankful for the scars
'Cause without them I wouldn't know your heart
And I know they'll always tell of who you are
So forever I am thankful for the scars*

The enemy wants to use our scars to alienate us from the body because he knows the powerful that is found in them
He is the one who wants to marginalize us and separate us, but God is always placing and arranging the body - in all its
varied parts - exactly as He wants it to be

No more cookie-cutter faith

No more one-dimensional body

God is building a multi-cultural, multi-generational, multi-scarred mosaic here because **what make you different
makes us beautiful**

One final clip, and in it I hope you see the power that comes from bringing your whole story to the whole body

[CLIP - Ending scene]

Let's pray.