

1. Thankful for the Scars (my scar story--scars are both physical and emotional--but should we be thankful for them? James thinks so)
2. James 1:2
3. Why?
 - a. Reveals our brokenness--Isaiah 64:6 (last week I was at John 3:16--brokenness was on full display and it was beautiful to see people coming to and clinging to the Lord. Usually we hide our brokenness and try not to acknowledge it--cover it up like Dolly covering her scars with tattoos. Yet owning up to our scars actually reminds us how much we need Jesus)
 - b. Reminds us of God's healing--Psalm 147:3 (There is beauty in God's healing and the scars stand as evidence. He binds up our wounds and heals the brokenhearted--and for that we should forever be thankful)
 - c. Because the scars have changed me--James 1:3-4 (Suffering as much as we seek to avoid it--opens us up to the work of God--matures us and brings a richer and deeper appreciation for the blessings of God)
4. (Lyrics from I Am They)
5. "I can now see with open eyes"
 - a. Acknowledge the scars (in you and in others--don't pretend they do not exist--do not be afraid to talk about them)
 - b. Celebrate the God who heals them (one way or the other he does so why not praise him for all we are)
 - c. Rally to each other in our suffering (I love this quote by Philip Yancey--**"A healthy body is not one that feels no pain. A healthy body is one that attends to the pain of its weakest part."**)
6. (And be)Thankful for His Scars