

## Chapter 22

“Yeah, the question,” Heather said. “Where does Paul talk about us being healed by Jesus’ stripes?”

“Not Paul, Peter. It’s 1 Peter 2:24, but I’m not sure that it’s ‘stripes.’ I think it’s the King James Version that says ‘stripes.’ The NIV, which is usually more accurate than the KJV, says ‘wounds.’ What? Steve didn’t tell you about his scars?”

“No he didn’t, and both of you are in trouble. How do we know for sure what Peter’s original letter said?”

“We look it up in a GK Concordance.”

“Okay. I’ll bet you have one.”

“Now? You want me to do it at almost seven-thirty in the morning on the first full day of your honeymoon?”

“Of course. Isn’t God supposed to be more important than our marriage? We’re trying to understand God more.”

“What’s the hypothesis that brought on this question?”

“Could Jesus still bear the scars from his scourging before he went to the cross? Wouldn’t he if our healing actually came through the scourging?”

“Wow! That’s interesting. Hold on. I gotta go downstairs. Guess I should turn off the stove so I don’t burn anything in Steve’s skillet.”

“I guess that would be a good idea,” Steve agreed dryly.

“Thanks so much for your help last night,” Heather said while Greg was in transit. “I’m sorry I doubted you.”

“No problem Boss. I kind of expected that, but I figured one look at Steve and you’d forgive me.”

“You had that right! Did they give you any trouble last night?”

“Beth was mad as all get out.”

“She’ll get over it.”

“She did mostly I guess. It’s my charm. Besides, I redeemed myself later when some of Steve’s caring teammates and the uncles wanted to know where you were. They were afraid I didn’t get you good enough.”

“Obviously they didn’t get anything out of you.”

Greg put his cell phone on speaker and set it down on his desk while he flipped through his GK Concordance.

“Oh, they tried to beat it out of me, but I didn’t break.”

“By beat it out of you, you mean ...?”

“It took five of them ten minutes to pin me. Then they shoved bamboo shoots under my fingernails. You owe me Boss.”

“Do I detect a slight bit of exaggeration there?” Steve rolled his eyes at Heather who giggled.

“Exaggerate? Me? Now why would you think that?”

“I wouldn’t know,” Steve said dryly.

“Here we go. ‘Wounds’ in 1 Peter 2:24. That’s the Greek word numbered 3698. And that is ... *mōlōps*, ‘wound, welt, bruise.’ Looks like your theory is possible Boss.”

“Can we make it probable?” Steve asked. “Or do we stick with possible?”

“Peter referenced a verse in Isaiah 53,” Greg said, “so we can look there and see what the original Hebrew said. ... Here it is. Isaiah 53:5 uses the Hebrew word numbered 2467. ... Which is *habbûrâ*, ‘bruise, welt, wound, injury.’”

“So does that make it probable?”

“Honestly? I’m going to have to give you a best guess on this right now.”

“So give it.”

“Okay. The verse in Isaiah says, ‘But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.’ We can’t make a big deal out of the different words used for ‘injuries’ because Hebrew poetry uses parallelism rather than rhymes, so we can’t look at it as a list of the types of wounds Jesus received. It’s more like saying the same thing in a different way.”

“So you’re saying it’s not probable that Jesus still bears his scars from his scourging?”

“No, I’m not saying that at all. Right now I don’t know which possible definitions are most likely the authors’ original intents, but I’m inclined to think your theory is highly likely, maybe even probable. The fact that both words can mean ‘wound, welt or bruise’ leads me to suspect that it doesn’t

refer to the nails. It sounds more like the beating than the nails which would cause 'wounds' for sure, but they wouldn't cause welts or bruises. And I think sometimes we put too much emphasis on the nails and the cross and forget that there was a lot more to our salvation than just the cross."

"So you think Jesus might still have the scourging scars?" Heather asked.

"I think he might. The bible makes it clear that the flogging was part of our salvation. So if Jesus has scars from the nail marks and the sword piercing, which happened after his death, then wouldn't he have the flogging scars too?"

"You think the flogging before is as important as the cross?" Steve asked.

"Oh yeah." Greg headed upstairs to resume his breakfast preparations. "I definitely do, along with just about everything else in Jesus' life, but the scars thing is just my opinion. I'd have to study it deeper to get a better foundation for my belief but I don't have the time for that now."