



THORNS INTO GLORY

HEALING

2 Corinthians 11:1 – 15

October 30, 2022

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MESSAGE NOTES

2 Corinthians 11:12 – 15 (ESV)

2 Corinthians 11:1 – 3 (ESV)

Be aware of spiritual wolves.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. — 2 Corinthians 11:13 – 14 (ESV)

Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. — Matthew 7:15 (NLT)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. — John 10:10 – 12 (ESV)

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.
— 2 Corinthians 11:13 (ESV)*

For our boast is this, the testimony of our conscience, that we behaved in the world with simplicity and godly sincerity, not by earthly wisdom but by the grace of God, and supremely so toward you. — 2 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)

So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. — 2 Corinthians 11:15 (ESV)

Healing from a wolf attack:

- **Return to the simplicity of devotion to Christ.**

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. — 2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)

“The father of lies twists the truth and distorts reality. He is the author of cynicism and skepticism, mistrust and despair, sick-thinking and self hatred. But I am the Son of Compassion. You belong to Me, and no one will tear you from my hand.” — Brennan Manning, Abba’s Child

- **Practice the ministry of “Showing Up”.**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. — Joshua 1:9 (ESV)



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- **Pursue forgiveness as part of the process of healing.**

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. — Colossians 3:12 – 13 (ESV)

- **Lean into God's perseverance with us and for us.**

*"None of them lived without sin. They all made their share of mistakes and engaged in episodes of disobedience and rebellion. But God stuck with them so consistently and surely that they learned how to stick with God."
— Dallas Willard, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*

*They've kicked me around ever since I was young — this is how Israel tells us — They've kicked me around ever since I was young, but they never could keep me down. Their plowman plowed long furrows up and down my back; But God wouldn't put up with it, he sticks with us; Then God ripped the harnesses of the evil plowmen to shreds ...
— Psalm 129 (The Message)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion Starter: Your Hollywood name is your middle name plus the name of the street you grew up on. Share your Hollywood name with one another.

- What are some of the wounds that "spiritual wolves" and "wolf-like events" cause for people and churches? Read John 10:10 – 12 and discuss the qualities of the Good Shepherd.
- After a time of being wounded, what are ways that someone can return to the simplicity of devotion to Christ? Share some examples in your own life.
- Why is the practice of "showing up" such a powerful part of God's healing journey? Why does it take courage to "show up" and how does God meet us in it?
- What does it mean that we forgive "people" more than we forgive "institutions"? Why do you think that may be significant in a healing process?
- How is the secret of perseverance in times of healing not simply gutting it out but growing in our understanding God's faithfulness to us? How does God's Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11 provide examples of God persevering with His people?