



# SUNDAY MORNING AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** The Scars of the Past

**Passage:** Ezra 2:61-63

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Wood

**Introduction:** All scars have a story attached to them. Some are physical, and we can explain every detail of how they happened. Others are emotional and physiological, unseen, but just as real.

*“Scars explain where you’ve been. They don’t decide where you’re going.” - Anonymous*

When facing past scars, you have two paths. You can allow them to debilitate you, producing bitterness, numbness, or fear. Or you can allow God to transform you, accept His plan, serve in His purpose, and experience His peace.

*“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.” (Micah 7:18–19)*

Even in a chapter like Ezra 2, filled with names, we see that God is carefully and faithfully rebuilding His people and ensuring that what was broken is restored properly.

## I. The Mistake(Verse 61)

In the moment, we often justify our decision but deep down, we know it’s wrong.



## **SUNDAY MORNING**

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

The truth is, we're all sinners. We all have scars from the past, and we wish we could go back and fix it, but the truth is, we can't.

Israel made a big mistake. There was now a permanent scar on their name. Their choices may have benefited them while in captivity, but they were now going to have some consequences.

### **II. The Consequences (Verses 62-63)**

Sometimes we suffer the consequences of our own actions, and sometimes we suffer the consequences of the actions of others.

*"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."  
(Ecclesiastes 7:20)*

*"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."  
(James 2:10)*

We often look at other people's sin with contempt and disdain, but we see our own as "not that bad."

*"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed..." (Lamentations 3:22)*

The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

### **III. The Response (Nehemiah 3:1-4,21)**

None of us deserve heaven, but isn't it amazing that God is offering a mansion to us there?

Jesus sits in heaven on the right hand of the Father, and the Bible teaches us that He is making intercession for us.

How often do we want to walk away before God finishes the painting of our life?

God specializes in creating masterpieces out of our broken lives.



**SUNDAY MORNING**  
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Conclusion:** Your scars do not get the final word. The cross does. Jesus Christ bore the ultimate injustice so that your past would not define your future. He took the nails, the shame, the wrath, and He rose again so that broken people could have a fresh start. So, what will you do with your scars? Will you cling to bitterness and excuses, or will you lay them at His feet and let Him finish the masterpiece He is painting? If you are unsaved, come to Him in simple faith and trust Him fully. If you are saved but stuck, come back with a humble heart and say, “Lord, I will serve anywhere. I will do anything.” The crayon may feel broken, but it still works in the Master’s hand.

