

Have you ever run into a door or a table, and heard someone say, “That’s going to leave a mark!”? Sure enough, a short time later you find a bruise forming where the impact occurred. That kind of mark is painful, but the idea of leaving some type of mark on the world is something that most people want to do in their lives.

There is no one that has made a bigger mark on the world, though, than Jesus. But though He healed many people, the only time that it was recorded that He did something that would leave a mark on someone is when He made a whip out of cords and ran the moneychangers out of the temple¹.

He did this because these people were taking advantage of the poor visitors to Jerusalem who came for the Passover. They were perverting Goodness in the guise of being a “service” to people. After all, one had to obey the rules of the offering²!

I presume that Jesus was not just fooling around, and that to get the moneychangers to move he had to actually hit some of them with the whip. Thus, He would have left His mark on some of them. They ran off, but we know that it wasn’t long before they came back and resumed business – perhaps they only hid as long as the marks were visible. Jesus certainly did not camp out at the temple to keep them from returning.

But I wonder if some of them might have been “touched” in a different way – perhaps they realized that they were doing evil and repented. I would like to think so, anyway. Hopefully in the battle between the moneychangers and the soul-changer at least one was ashamed of the marks and what they represented.

Christ marks us in a good way, though, if we are following Him. We just need to make sure that these marks don’t fade away, as the radiance in Moses’ face did upon leaving the Presence of the Lord³. We must have our hearts marked truly and permanently, as though the flesh was actually altered⁴. Paul rejoiced that he could bear the marks of Christ⁵, being proud not of himself, but His Lord.

Christ was marked as well, but by us. He literally bore our stripes⁶, and produced the evidence in his hands and side⁷ for his disciples to see. We certainly marked Him more than He has marked us. But our marks are evident for those who are true disciples⁸. They reflect the fact that our soul has been changed by the Christ.

1. John 2:15
2. Leviticus 5:5ff
3. see 2 Corinthians 3:7-18
4. Romans 2:28-29 and 4:11
5. Galatians 6:17
6. Isaiah 53:5
7. John 20:25
8. John 13:35