

The Scars

Ponder: Why did Jesus' resurrected body have scars?

Scripture: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

John used a word for "print" which means a pattern or form. After surgery a scar indicates the location of the incision. Whether or not we consider the nail prints in Jesus' hands to be scars in that sense, the fact remains that they were visible and touchable marks. The same is true of the spear wound in His side. As to why they were there post-resurrection, here's my easy answer: I don't know. The Bible doesn't say.

What we know with certainty is that these scars helped Thomas to overcome his doubt. He knew painfully well what had happened to Jesus. Eyewitness accounts of the gruesome scene would have filled Jerusalem. Yet on the first day of the week some were claiming Jesus was alive from the dead! How could Thomas know it really was the Lord, and not some impostor?

The scars provided irrefutable evidence. It really was Jesus! He actually was crucified. The reports of blood and water issuing forth from the spear wound were true. Bottom line, Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, raised from the dead, having defeated Satan by overcoming death and the tomb.

Could God have raised Jesus with a perfectly restored body, free of all signs of the unspeakable abuse He suffered? Of course He could! But He didn't. And I'm glad. The scars helped Thomas. They help me, too.

Hymn: "Thomas' Song"

Prayer: Almighty Father, we thank and praise You for raising Your precious Son from the dead, giving us hope of our own resurrection unto eternal life. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins we have through His atoning blood. In His name, Amen.