

Every Scar Has a Story

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"Every Scar Has a Story"

John 20:24-29

INTRODUCTION. Every scar has a story... emotional/word... scar on my pinkie finger has to do with an arcade game in college... in Aug. 2007 we had just moved to Atlanta... Perimeter church's 30 yr. anniversary celebration / my first Sunday... inflatables & kids games... bat hit Sarah Wynn in the face...

Jesus' scars tell a story, too.

EXPOSITION.

24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

- I really don't blame him.
- But this is pretty hard skepticism– "never"
- When you have been sorely disappointed once, it's hard to hope... too emotionally risky
- Dreams shattered... skeptical of new life: *marriage or in a job or with a church*

26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

- Notice: the doors locked? scared/fearful
- Somehow Jesus gets in– we can't keep Jesus away
- He speaks a timely word- "peace"
- Peace is the last thing they were experiencing (can you relate?)

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

- Jesus provides evidence
 - Christianity is historical — not a legend, fable, or fairy tale / based on facts-evidence
 - Faith is being sure of what is *true*, even if it is not seen
- Dr. Simon Greenleaf was one of the principle founders of the Harvard Law School- not

a Christian. Sought to disprove the resurrection using precise lines of legal inquiry. He unintentionally came to the conclusion that it did happen, in his words, "without any reasonable doubt."

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

- The truth of the risen Jesus changed everything!
- Travelled to India to preach— farther than any other Apostle!
- Unwavering skepticism melts into radical devotion
- Notice the pronoun: "my"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- To be blessed is more than to have food, clothing and a job— forgiveness, righteousness, adoption, hope... GRACE
- Faith is the means by which we access and receive grace.
- Religion says we are blessed b/c of our obedience and sacrifice; but the gospel says that we are blessed b/c of the obedience and sacrifice of Jesus
- The resurrection is the confirmation of the cross***

ILLUSTRATION. My wife and I are book junkies... Amazon "Prime" membership... the UPS driver no longer needs a GPS... Two days ago I received one book, Kristy got 5!
Receiving "confirmation" emails that the order has been shipped!!! CONFIRMED!

APPLICATION. How do we confirm love, forgiveness, etc.? **words alone? NO- with actions**

REDEMPTION. Jesus did it in the most undeniable way possible!

CONCLUSION— so what are we to do?

- 1) Understand the meaning of Jesus' scars— *he bore judgement in my place*
- 2) Personalize the meaning of Jesus' scars— *he is MY Lord and God, my Savior-Hero*
- 3) Go and live with radical devotion to this Jesus— *who has already proved his radical devotion to us in the cross*

What would it look like for the radical devotion of Jesus for you to get into your spiritual bloodstream?! How might that change you?



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