

"A Traveler's Scars"

Luke 24:36-48

A *scar* is a mark left on the skin after a wound, burn, or sore has healed over (or) a lasting effect left on somebody's mind by a personal misfortune or unpleasant experience (Encarta Dictionary). So a scar can be emotional as well as physical and they remind us of a wound that has healed.

Scars tell a story. They remind us of a past event, maybe of a past surgery or injury. Scars are souvenirs of past events. (Mark 5:1-20)

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the (scars) brand-marks of Jesus"* (Galatians 6:17). Paul had the scars to prove that he was the real deal. His body must have been riddled with scars each telling a different story (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

According to Luke 24:36-40, Jesus shows His hands and feet to His followers as though He was offering evidence to a jury in a court of law. The scars were evidence, proof, as to who He was and what He had endured.

John in the Gospel of John tells us the story of Thomas. Thomas refused to believe that Jesus was alive, that He had come back to the living from the dead. The evidence Thomas needed were the scars of Jesus (John 20:24-28). The scars of Jesus tell the greatest story: The grave could not hold Him and sin and death have been defeated! It is a nail scarred hand that points the way to heaven.

1. Scars show involvement.

Scars show that you were involved in the fight. Without the involvement of Jesus in the process of our salvation we are lost. Paul tells us plainly that if there is no death and resurrection then our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins and we have no hope (1 Corinthians 15:17-19). It's only because Jesus involved Himself that we can say with confidence today – our sins can be forgiven and our hope eternal.

2. Scars show survival.

A scar says, "I have suffered." But it also says, "I survived."

"From every wound there is a scar, and every scar tells a story. A story that says, I survived." Craig Scott

3. Scars show healing.

By definition scars are wounds that have healed. The ultimate healing takes place through Jesus (Isaiah 53:4-6).