

The Scars of Religious, Spiritual, or Church Hurt, The Reality of Doubt, and The Resurrection Scars of Jesus
(John 20:24-29)

Pastor Deric Thomas

(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."

(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."

(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."

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

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

Practical Application

1. There is healing from the wounds and scars of religious, spiritual, or church hurt.
2. There is an answer to your doubts and skepticism.
3. The resurrection scars of Jesus are the solution to our wounds, scars, doubts, and skepticism. Look to Him today.
4. God works in special ways when His people gather together. Make weekly worship with the church a priority and habit in your life.
5. You never know what part of Jesus' resurrection life you are missing out on when you don't gather with God's people on the Lord's Day (Sunday).
6. Tell others what Jesus is doing in your life. Make encouragement of others a regular part of your communication.
7. Pray for and patiently help those who have doubts and are skeptical of God and His Son Jesus.
8. Know that God is patient, gracious, merciful, and kind. He wants us to be like Him in the way we relate to others.
9. Jesus lovingly pursues His doubting children personally.
10. The solution to all of our scars are the scars of Jesus Christ. His scars proclaim His love loudly.
11. Have you experienced Jesus for yourself? Hearing about Him from others is good, but experiencing Him yourself is better.
12. If you are not a Christian yet, what would it take for you to believe?
13. Things can radically change in a person's life in a week. Never give up on anyone. Jesus is alive and He is always on the move to seek and save the lost and the struggling.
14. Even the once strong and most committed like Thomas can struggle when life does not make sense or when there is deep hurt and disappointment of some kind.
15. Is Jesus your Lord? Have you surrendered to Him, yielded to Him, and committed your life fully to Him?
16. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God? Is He your God?
17. Have you put your faith in Christ? If so, you are blessed by God. Take in the fullness of His blessing toward you today.

Announcements

1. **Children's AWANA Program and Adult Small Group Bible Study** are on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30. Remember we are now serving dinner to kids on Wednesday nights starting at 6.
2. Check out all the **Small Groups** that meet on Sunday's and throughout the week. We have many to choose from, with more starting in the weeks to come.
3. **Men's Ministry:** Join us for a Shrimp Broil on September 24th following worship (11:45-12:45).