

The Open Wounds Of Jesus Christ

by J. W. Jepson

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One week after His resurrection, Jesus appeared again, quite suddenly, to His disciples. This time Thomas was present.

After greeting them, the Lord addressed Thomas directly. "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27).

Thomas had refused to believe the eyewitness testimony of those who saw Jesus after His resurrection, insisting that he see the imprint left by the nails in Jesus' hands and put his finger into them, and also push his hand into Jesus' side.

The other disciples had already seen Jesus' wounds (verse 20). Now Jesus gave Thomas the same opportunity. The effect on Thomas was immediate and dramatic. "My Lord and my God!" he declared (verse 28).

Even though our Savior had risen from the dead with a glorified body, the healed wounds in his hands and side were still open. Why?

I believe there can be only one plausible answer. Those open wounds will forever stand as a graphic reminder of everything the cross has accomplished, every truth that is embodied in it, and every lesson we learn or should learn from it.

The atoning and redeeming death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the only way that God can be just in forgiving and justifying us. Romans 3:26 declares that God gave His Son as a sacrifice "to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

The open wounds of Jesus Christ will forever be a reminder of how much God loves us, and the price God paid to save us from our sins. Those open wounds will never let us forget the horrible, destructive power of sin and the penalty it brings.

Seeing those open wounds in our Lord's glorified body will continuously renew our love for Him, our devotion to Him, our willing obedience to His commands, and our gratitude to the Father for sending Him to bring us eternal salvation.
