

Scars on His Hands

I have been reading Luke 24:36-40 recently and I noticed something I had not seen before. When Jesus appeared to His followers following the resurrection, He actually didn't say very much at that encounter. Now there are some things he could have said. He could have said, "Peter how could you have denied me three times even after I warned you it would happen." He could have asked, "Why did you all run away in the garden when the soldiers came to arrest me?" He could have said, "Where were you when I needed you?" or "Why did you fall asleep when I wanted your companionship?" But he didn't say any of those things.

He could see they had doubts and questions and He addressed all these by simply encouraging them to look at His hands and His feet. In Luke 24:38-40 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

When Thomas was present Jesus again encouraged him to examine those wounds. In John 20:27 He told Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and My God!"

I asked myself what was so important about them seeing those scars on His Hands and feet. And then it occurred to me that those scars told a story all by themselves. They spoke softly and tenderly of the incredible pain and suffering that He bore for us. They spoke of His humanity and yet His Divinity. They spoke of the miracle of New Life of the Resurrection, God's Power, God's Grace, and they shouted a message of God's Love. They spoke of the righteous judge of Heaven who pronounced us guilty for our sin and indifference to our Creator, but then he stepped down from the bench, removing His robe of authority and coming around the front of the bench to pay the fine for us Himself.

If you have doubts, like I do sometimes, if you have things you have done and failed the Lord, like I have, let us embrace the Lord's words when He does not condemn us for our failures but instead He Says to us, "Look at my hands and my feet."

Oh what a wonderful Heavenly Father. Oh what a Savior...

Richard Lewis
Pathway Christian Church
Riverside, CA