

Subject: *Remembering Christ's Scars*

Scripture: *John 20:19-31*

After Christ was crucified and buried, His disciples were afraid and unsure of their future. They were hiding behind closed doors when suddenly He appeared to them in His resurrection body. They recognized Him by the scars in His hands and side. Without a doubt, they knew it was Christ. The scars were evidence that the same Jesus they trusted and obeyed was now alive. The scars represent His death, but they also His resurrection. Scars remained after His wounds were healed. The wounds of His crucified body became the scars of His glorified resurrection body. Christ still has those scars in heaven, as the hymn goes, *Crown Him with Many Crowns*. "Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side, Those wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight, But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright." In preparation for the Lord's Supper, I want us to remember His scars and what they remind us of.

1. The scars remind us of His suffering

Roman soldiers drove spikes into His hands and feet, and they brutally thrust a spear into His side. What terrible pain He suffered at the hands of evil men. Someone said that the only manmade things in heaven are the scars in Christ's body. Jesus suffered the physical pain of crucifixion, the emotional pain of shame and mocking, and the spiritual pain of bearing the curse of sin and separation from the Father: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

We know His suffering was planned by God. His suffering was in obedience to God's perfect will. *Isaiah 53:5* But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All these words describe His terrible suffering on the cross. The scars of Christ were battle scars. He suffered and died to win the victory over sin, Satan, and the curse.

2. The scars remind us of His sacrifice

He suffered and died as the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for sinners.

John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Old Testament believers offered sacrifices in obedience to God and those sacrifices were a temporary covering that looked forward to Christ's perfect sacrifice. Now at the Lord's Supper we look back in remembrance of His perfect sacrifice.

3. The scars remind us of His substitution

He suffered in our place, as our substitute. *1 Peter 3:18* For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God...

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

4. The scars remind us of His satisfaction

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (died).

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief...

We see the satisfaction of Christ's death explained fully in Hebrews 7-10 where God draws a sharp contrast between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant:

<i>Old Covenant</i>	<i>New Covenant</i>
Repeated sacrifices	One sacrifice
The blood of animals	Christ's own blood
Sin was covered	Sin was taken away
For the Jews only	For all people
High priest entered the Holy of holies	Christ entered Heaven itself
High priest came out to bless the people	Christ will come to take His people to Heaven

The Old Covenant was a blessing, but it was not perfect because the sacrifices were not perfect and the priests were not perfect. We needed Christ the perfect High priest who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:11-14 reminds us of the perfection and sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. The Jewish priests always stood in the tabernacle and the temple because their work was never complete. By contrast Jesus offered Himself as the one sufficient offering for sins and then sat down at the right hand of the Father.

Hebrews 1:3 *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Hebrews 8:1 *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.*

Hebrews 10:12 *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

Hebrews 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

The fact that Jesus is sitting at the Father's right hand does not describe exhaustion, but completion and satisfaction. Jesus offered one sacrifice that was sufficient for all believers for all time.

The scars of Christ speak to us of His suffering, His sacrifice, His substitution, and His satisfaction. His death satisfied God's justice for all who trust in Him.

My Faith Has Found a Resting Place

*My faith has found a resting place not in device or creed;
I trust the ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*

*Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul, I come to Him, He'll never cast me out.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*