



One Page Sermon

By Pastor Robb McCoy

July 10, 2022

Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 AM

After the Storm: Showing your scars (Luke 24:36-49)

Scars tell stories. Scars give warnings. Scars are a reminder of pain and suffering, but also of survival and overcoming. Some scars are physical, and can be used as identifying marks. In Homer's classic *The Odyssey*, there is a famous scene where Odysseus is recognized only by his scar. After years of travel, torment, and struggle, it is the scar he received as a kid that helped reveal his identity.

Scars are not easily identifiable physical marks. Some scars are invisible to others. These scars are often the slowest to heal.

Jesus showed his scars. Both the writers of Luke and John point out specifically that Jesus showed his scars to his disciples. There are various reasons he may have done this. Like Odysseus, it may have been proof of identification. Only Jesus would have had these scars from the wounds they knew were his. Most of the resurrection stories include some type of misidentification. Jesus' resurrected body was difficult to identify for various reasons, but the scars proved it was him.

In Luke, it also seems to be important to show that he is not a ghost—that he is corporal body that eats and touches and has substance. He was not a vision. He was not a dream or a spirit. He was real and in their presence, and the scars proved that he was a body that could be wounded and healed.

One thing is clear—the resurrection did not erase the scars. They were no longer open wounds, but the pain and suffering left a mark. It left his body changed forever. Even through the miracle of resurrection, the suffering and pain of crucifixion left its mark. Jesus showed his scars, and his scars told a story.

Jesus' scars told a story of betrayal. His scars gave warning to the disciples of what following him could lead to. His scars were a reminder of pain and suffering, but also of survival and overcoming. His scars were physical and helped them identify him. The disciples were witnesses. They could testify to his scars, and they could testify to his resurrection. There would be no resurrection without the trauma that marked his body.

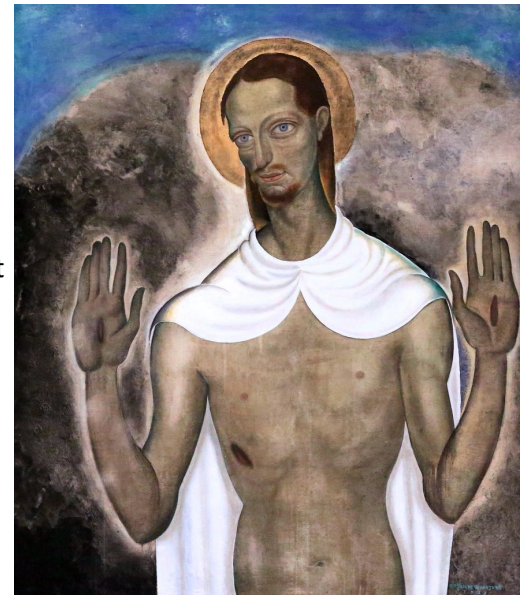
Trauma leaves scars, and we all have scars. I have a scar on my ankle from when my dogs wrapped their lead around

my leg and ran off. That scar is a good reminder to be more careful when I let them out our back door. There are other scars that tell other stories. We often treat scars as if they are something to hide, something to be ashamed of and cover up.

Yet our scars can tell stories. They can give warnings. They can be reminders of pain and suffering, but also of survival and triumph. We all have scars and each one of them is a story of healing. Each one of them is a story of survival. Each one of them is a chance to learn and grow and move beyond the scars. Each one of them is a sign that the pain and suffering did not have the last word.

I am thankful for all my scars and for the ways that God healed me. I am not thankful for the pain that gave them to me. I do not believe that scars—or more specifically the trauma that causes scars—are God's will. God does not will pain, suffering, and trauma in our lives. God's will is not neglect. God's will is not abuse. God's will is not hunger or suffering. God's will is not heartbreak or loss. We should not thank God for the pain and the trauma. Suffering is not God's will.

Survival is God's will. Healing is God's will. Resurrection is God's will. Scars are evidence of the healing that has happened and the life that will continue. So share your scars. Share your stories of suffering and healing. Share your stories of trials and redemption. Be witnesses to the power of God to restore, renew, and resurrect.



Gustave van de Woestyne. 1881-1947. Gent Anvers Bruxelles. Christ Shows his Wounds.