

Year B 3rd Sunday of Easter Homily Outline

Main theme:

The wounds from the Cross are the identifying marks of the Resurrected and Triumphant Jesus – allowing Jesus to heal our wounds lets us share in His Resurrection and Victory

Image of the Crucifix in the Church of the Gesù

Those people were responding to the invitation of Jesus: “PUT YOUR FINGERS INTO THE NAIL MARKS AND YOUR HAND INTO MY SIDE – DO NOT BE UNBELIEVING, BUT BELIEVE.”

1. Why do the wounds remain?

Seem like they are just a sign of his being a victim of human sinfulness and cruelty.

- There is a great mystery here: the divine plan reveals that Christ’s wounds will remain forever.

2. Those still opened wounds are central to the accounts of the resurrection

WHY ARE YOU TROUBLED? AND WHY DO QUESTIONS ARISE IN YOUR HEARTS? LOOK AT MY HANDS AND MY FEET, THAT IT IS I MYSELF. TOUCH ME AND SEE, BECAUSE A GHOST DOES NOT HAVE FLESH AND BONES AS YOU CAN SEE I HAVE.” AND AS HE SAID THIS, HE SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND HIS FEET.

The wounds are part of Jesus’ identity.

- They are identifying marks that the Jesus of the Passion and Death is the same as the
- However, those wounds are now transformed
 - They are no longer bleeding and a source of suffering (invitation to touch and probe!)

In His resurrected body those wounds now have become the living source of forgiveness and mercy opened up to the whole world.

“BY HIS WOUNDS YOU HAVE BEEN HEALED” (1 Pt 2:24c).

3. Human wounds – our wounds

What does this mean for us? Every human being to some degree or another also carries wounds in his body and soul.

- Often those wounds are the result of other people's sinfulness.
- Many times our wounds are self-inflicted from our own sinful choices, our bad habits, and the compromises we make with them.
- And some wounds we carry aren't really anyone's fault. They come rather as the result of living in a fallen
 - Mistaken expectations for the world allow the world to wound us

Ultimately, most of the wounds we experience in life lead us to a deep sense, even an identity, of being unloved or unlovable and abandoned.

- If wounds aren't healed, they fester. They don't naturally just get better over time. Healing and transformation always require work – but that work can lead to incredible transformation for us – and the chance to really share in Christ's Resurrection and to experience new life.

Example from CS Lewis *The Great Divorce*

Resources

Book

Be Healed: A Guide to Encountering the Powerful Love of Jesus in Your Life. By Dr. Bob Schuchts

Undone: Freeing Your Feminine Heart from the Knots of Fear and Shame. Carrie Schuchts Daunt

Podcast

Restore the Glory. By Dr. Bob Schuchts and Jake Khym M.A.