

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Stars and Scars of Christmas

**SERMON REFERENCE:** John 20:24-29

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2452

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Jesus Christ is both God and man.
  - i) He is the God-man.
  - ii) Jesus is God in human flesh.
- b) Isaiah 9:6
  - i) When Isaiah said, “a child is born,” he was speaking of Jesus’ humanity.
  - ii) When Isaiah said, “a son is given,” he was speaking of Jesus’ deity.
- c) As a child, Jesus was born in Bethlehem; as God, He has ruled from eternity.
  - i) Jesus did not have His beginning in Bethlehem, only His birth.
- d) There is a darker side to Christmas.
  - i) As a man, Jesus was born to die.
  - ii) As God, He died for our sins.
    - (1) The Lord Jesus lived a sinless life, was falsely accused and butchered on a cruel Roman cross.
    - (2) He was placed in a grave which was sealed with a stone.
      - (a) On the third day, He arose and came out of that grave a living, victorious Savior.
- e) John 20:24-29
  - i) After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples.
  - ii) Thomas saw the scars of Jesus.
- f) The scars of Jesus are not incidental.
  - i) Those scars are so fundamental that Jesus carried them with Him to Heaven.
    - (1) The only thing man-made in Heaven are the scars of Jesus Christ.
  - ii) When Jesus comes again, one of the ways we will know Him is by those scars.
    - (1) Zechariah 13:6
- g) Today’s message will share three things about the scars of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2) AS A MAN, JESUS SUFFERED (JOHN 20:27)

- a) Jesus invited Thomas to examine His scars.
  - i) Those scars were a brute testimony to the fact that Jesus was pierced with those nails.
- b) There is a great problem in the world today when we try to testify about God, and that problem primarily is suffering.
  - i) Many people question why God allows so much suffering.
  - ii) But the greater question is not why do humans suffer, but why does God suffer.
    - (1) The scars of Jesus tell us that God in human flesh suffered.
    - (2) Isaiah 53:3
    - (3) Isaiah 63:9
- c) Not only did Jesus suffer when He was here on Earth, but God still suffers.
  - i) God in His glory suffers.

- ii) Ephesians 4:30
    - (1) Grief is a form of emotional suffering.
    - (2) God in Heaven grieves.
      - (a) A father suffers when he has a wayward child.
        - (i) Luke 15:11-32
        - (ii) God the Father suffers because He has children away from Him.
      - (b) Grieve is a love word.
        - (i) You can only grieve someone who loves you.
      - (c) Ephesians 4:30 teaches us about the personality of the Holy Spirit.
        - (i) Only a person can be grieved, and the only person who can be grieved is someone who loves you.
  - iii) In the physical realm, the head suffers when the body feels pain.
    - (1) Christ is the head of the church, and we are His body.
      - (a) When we suffer, our Lord suffers.
      - (b) Hebrews 4:15
      - (c) Acts 9:4
        - (i) When a Christian is persecuted, Jesus is persecuted.
  - iv) We are the bride, and Jesus is the groom.
    - (1) If the bride is unfaithful to the groom, the groom grieves.
    - (2) When the church is unfaithful to the Lord Jesus, His heart is broken.
  - d) The scars tell us that God has suffered.
- 3) AS A MAN, JESUS SYMPATHIZES (JOHN 20:27)
- a) Jesus understands.
    - i) Nobody really knows the pain in a human heart except Jesus.
  - b) The scars of Jesus tell us that He has been there and that He has felt and understands our pain.
  - c) Hebrews 2:17-18
    - i) “Tempted” in this passage means “tested.”
    - ii) The word “succor” means “to help.”
    - iii) Not only does Jesus suffer, but because He suffers, He understands.
  - d) Hebrews 4:15
  - e) Our Lord suffered, He sympathizes, and the pain that He allows us to have is proof of His love.
    - i) Genesis 3:17-18
      - (1) After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God cursed the ground “for your sake.”
        - (a) He did not say “for your punishment” but for your welfare.
      - (2) God put a curse on the environment in which we live because the worst thing that could happen to us would be for us to have the sickness and the infection of sin and to feel no pain.
    - ii) Pain has a protecting purpose.
      - (1) If you hurt your leg and your body is healthy, you will feel the pain from the injury and will take the weight off of your leg.

- (a) This protects your leg.
      - (2) Pain tells us that something is wrong.
    - iii) Pain has a unifying purpose.
      - (1) Pain draws us together.
        - (a) Your whole body comes to the aid of a suffering member.
        - (2) Suffering unifies a church.
          - (a) 1 Corinthians 12:26
          - (b) You can tell the health of a church by its reaction to pain.
            - (i) How much does a church care for the homeless, the sick and those with broken hearts?
    - iv) Pain has a correcting purpose.
      - (1) If it weren't for the pain, we would never know that we were being hurt.
    - v) Pain comes in different forms.
      - (1) There is physical pain.
      - (2) There is emotional pain.
      - (3) There is spiritual pain.
    - vi) Americans want to kill pain at any cost.
      - (1) Many turn to drugs to try to dull their sensibilities.
      - (2) Some turn to alcohol.
      - (3) One of the biggest sedatives we have today is television.
    - vii) The problem is that many people take a sedative when they need a Savior.
      - (1) The pain is there to tell us that something is wrong.
  - f) Jesus gives us peace and joy, not primarily to remove the pain, but to help us endure the pain.
    - i) He will remove the pain at the rapture.
- 4) AS A MAN, JESUS SAVES (JOHN 20:27)
  - a) Jesus stepped out of glory to be nailed to the cross in order to redeem us.
    - i) Hebrews 9:22
  - b) Jesus did not have to suffer.
    - i) He could have refused the cross.
      - (1) John 10:18
    - ii) Jesus was the only man who ever chose to die.
      - (1) Those who commit suicide only choose the time of their death.
      - (2) Jesus was the only one who had no sin in Himself, and He could have refused death.
        - (a) It was not the nails but His love that held Him to the cross.
        - (3) He did not have to suffer, but He did suffer.
  - c) Why did God suffer?
    - i) John 3:16
    - ii) Isaiah 53:5
    - iii) He loves us.
      - (1) There is no one that God does not love.

- (2) There is no one that God does not want to save.
- iv) He suffers that He might be a Savior who sympathizes and saves us.
- d) Jesus is God in human flesh.
  - i) He came down from Heaven and went to the cross of Calvary for us.
  - ii) 2 Corinthians 5:19
  - iii) God became a man because our dominion was lost by a man, and it must be legally regained by a man.
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:21
    - (2) Not only is the human race guilty in Adam, but God counts the human race, by faith, justified in Christ.
    - (3) Jesus did for us what we could never do for ourselves.
    - (4) Hebrews 2:9
  - iv) The scars tell us that Jesus saves.
  - v) As God, He was sinless; but as a man, He suffered because there needed to be a sinless substitute.
- e) Jesus came to Earth that we might go to Heaven.
  - i) Jesus was born of a virgin that we might be born again.
  - ii) Jesus became the Son of man that we might become sons and daughters of God.
  - iii) Jesus died that we might live.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Jesus had some scars, and if we follow Jesus, so will we.
- b) God had only one Son without sin, but He didn't have any Son without suffering.
- c) Philippians 3:10
- d) We will not get out of this world unscarred.
  - i) There is the suffering that comes with serving the Lord Jesus.
    - (1) Galatians 6:17
      - (a) The Apostle Paul could say this literally because he had been beaten.
      - (b) But he uses here the word "stigmata."
        - (i) He is saying that he bears "the nail prints" of the Lord Jesus Christ in his body.
- e) Our scars may be our greatest ministry.
  - i) It was the scars of Jesus that caused Thomas to believe.
    - (1) John 20:25
  - ii) A scar is a wound that has healed.
  - iii) There are people who will believe in Jesus when they see our scars.
    - (1) We can testify that Jesus has healed us.
    - (2) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
      - (a) We can comfort others with our scars.
- f) Are you hurting today?
  - i) Bring your wounds to Jesus.

- (1) He understands; He has been there.
- ii) Use your scars for Jesus.
- g) Hebrews 4:15
- h) The Lord Jesus bears the scars of the nail prints for all eternity.
  - i) Have you placed your hand in His hand?
  - ii) Have you placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ?
- i) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- j) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16