



Wounded Glory

“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; he was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isa. 53:2-5

Can anything I say here even begin to compare with what the Lord has written about this in His Word. Especially speaking from the distance of two thousand years, the brutality of that event can only be imagined by a twentieth-century mind, except perhaps by a third-world persecuted country. The depths of despair and grief suffered by His mother and disciples cannot be imagined by us. But God’s plan and ways are always perfect, and it was He that determined this solution to the problem of sin before time even had begun. Yes, His wounds were His glory.

I do not think even the bloody details of His death can begin to reveal the devastation that sin has in one’s life. We tend to look upon ourselves and say that we are not as bad as someone else. That is not how the apostle Paul considered himself. He felt as though he was the chief of all sinners. Of course he really wasn’t. Many souls had done much worse than him, but that is the attitude he felt toward his sins. That is the attitude we must all have towards our own sin. We must all come to the revelation of how holy our God is and how far we have fallen from the way He created us.

I don’t think man can really comprehend the devastation that sin brings to one’s life. I am reminded

of the fictional character Dorian Gray. He remained perpetually unscathed in his appearance while all the ugliness he committed in life was reflected instead in a portrait of himself. Fictional, yes, but a stark revelation of how sin affects a person.

I think that's kind of the way with sinners. The spirit of a person becomes marred and disfigured by the sin they are committing long before it is manifested in the physical. The fact that physical change may be gradual, is perhaps it's deadliest trait. One slowly becomes hardened to the point there is no turning back. At that point one is considered a reprobate and can no longer be sensitive to the Holy Spirit Who is always ready to forgive and redeem if one will turn.

The good news is that if the Holy Spirit can still convict your heart, one is not beyond redemption. There were stripes that were bore and blood that was shed to redeem us. Our redemption was purchased at a price beyond compare, and yet it is freely given. Just be careful you don't hold the gift to be equivalent to the price you had to pay.

The Bible says that after Jesus was crucified, He went and preached to those that had died before. For so long I wondered who would not jump at His offer since they were already dead. Then one day the Lord helped me realize that their offer to accept His salvation came before the resurrection. They had to believe in Him and act in faith just as we do. I suppose many looked at Him and mocked that He was as dead as they were. What could He do for them? Yes, His ways are beyond our comprehension and they are always perfect.

I pity the man or woman so puffed up in their own knowledge they cannot realize that God is always a multitude of steps above them. They are blinded by their own arrogance. Has He not said that we must all come as little children? That's because we really are children compared to the creator.

Yes, His wounds were His glory and He kept them to prove it. Did He not challenge Thomas to put His hand in the wounded side? Right before Thomas knelt in submission and cried out, "my Lord and my God". Overwhelmed by the sacrifice made and the extent of the power of His resurrection, what else could he cry?

Yes, there was a dirty deed that had to be done, but know this. Just as surely as there was a crucifixion, there is a resurrection coming. As surely as He was resurrected, we shall all share in His resurrection. A resurrection of life from death. Keep that assurance securely in your heart. We only die when hope dies.