

WOUNDED
God Wounds
John 20:19-20, 24-31

I have been a friend of Buddy and Jeanna for nearly 30 years. They have not only been in this church with my family, they were our neighbors for many years as well. We made a lot of memories together. The week that Buddy died was one of the hardest weeks of my life, so I can only IMAGINE how difficult it is for her and her children. I have done SCORES of funerals in my years as a pastor, but Buddy's funeral stands as the MOST UNIQUE of any that I have ever done, partly because of who Buddy is, and partly because of who Jeanna is even in her grief. It was Jeanna and her kids that decided how they wanted the funeral to end. We knocked BEACH BALLS around the room while we sang along to a song about HEAVEN. It was a BLAST! Leave it to Buddy and his family to "put the FUN back into FUNERAL!"

I know that Jeanna is in PAIN. She is suffering from the ONE wound that WILL cause suffering in EVERY HUMAN HEART at some point (or points) in life. I KNOW that many of you DREAD coming to church here at Easter because you KNOW that we are going to try and FORCE you to FOCUS on that WOUND that you LEAST like to consider: DEATH. WELL, WE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN! You're welcome! I say this "Tongue-in-Cheek," but I also say it sincerely, because I KNOW that there will come a day (even if it is not today) when you will DESPERATELY want to BELIEVE that what you will hear today is ACTUALLY TRUE. Jesus really DID RISE from the grave. There really IS a heaven, and death is truly NOT the END. [Jeanna hurts with HOPE!](#)

It blew me away that Jeanna was willing to allow us to film that video so soon after Buddy passed away. [\[I probably should be SHOT for even asking her to do so!\]](#) The freshness of Jeanna's healing wound is a TESTIMONY about the REALITY of Jeanna's faith and the TRUTH of the resurrection. I am so AMAZED at what God is doing in Jeanna in the MIDST of her pain. Her wound is easy to understand, but her PEACE and her JOY during this season of pain is not . . . unless you know her PHYSICIAN. He specializes in the healing of the MOST PAINFUL wounds.

The thing is, there are MANY types of WOUNDS in our human lives. Physical wounds are the EASIEST to see. I still have a scar from when I once cut my head open playing chase around a brick house, and then I re-opened the wound playing on a Slip-N-Slide a few days later. My dad was carrying me to the car in order to take me to the hospital again, and my mom was walking beside us, sobbing. There was blood all over him and me, and I thought that I might be dying. As my mom was looking on and crying uncontrollably, Dad looked straight into my blood-soaked, fear-filled eyes and said, "LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO YOUR MOTHER!" Her wound was not as visible as mine! Dad wanted me to SEE it! I saw it.

Truly, there are many types of wounds that cannot be seen. They are the kind of wounds that flow with TEARS rather than BLOOD, but they HURT far more and they heal more slowly. Many of you are SUFFERING today from some type of INVISIBLE

WOUND. Some call it a SOUL WOUND. Perhaps you have been wounded by the BETRAYAL of a FRIEND or by the FAILURE of a LEADER. Maybe you have suffered from the ABUSE of a PARENT or the REJECTION of a SPOUSE. The wound from these relationships has left a gaping scar on your life. And some of you are still bleeding tears from that wound even though it happened YEARS AGO. The wound won't heal. You think that it never will. I'm here today to give you HOPE. **But some of you may not be willing to truly listen to what I have to say today because you are suffering from a GOD WOUND. You feel like God could or should have prevented you from going through whatever tragedy you have endured, and you either BLAME him for it or you think that he MUST NOT be real.**

There is ONE POINT to the message today: Only God can truly and eternally HEAL whatever wounds you suffer from in life. In fact, God WANTS your wound. He PAID for it. He DIED for it. And then he ROSE AGAIN as a VICTOR over it! But you have to TRUST him with your wounds. And you cannot do that if you BLAME him for it or if you think he is IRRELEVANT to it.

Decades ago, a famous atheist named Frederick Nietzsche said, "GOD IS DEAD." If he was right, then permanent healing is a HOAX. Let the wound bleed! But if he was wrong (I know that he is!), then HOPE is NOT a HOAX. Today, we CELEBRATE the amazing truth that GOD IS NOT DEAD. I want to give you another GLIMPSE into the amazing story of Jesus's resurrection from the EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT of one of Jesus's disciples, John. He saw it all. It MATTERS. **John 20:19-20, 24-29 NIV**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then he said to Thomas "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**

"On the FIRST DAY of the week, Jesus came and stood among the disciples."

This was the very day that Jesus had risen from the grave!

Some disciples were TOGETHER when Jesus revealed himself to them.

"Jesus showed them his hands and his side."

***His wounds were the PROOF of who he was and what he had endured.**

*The disciples never really grasped the fact that he HAD to DIE and THEN RISE!
 John 20:9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

*The death of Jesus caused the SCATTERING of Jesus's disciples! Some were slow to come back. (Vs. 24) "Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus came."

Our FAILURE to UNDERSTAND GOD'S ACTIONS may cause us to AVOID GOD.

*"Why did I have to suffer this pain? Why didn't God prevent it? Where is God?"
 SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS WHAT HE HATES TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE LOVES.

*Thomas was CONFUSED and HURT by the death of Jesus.

-He had hoped that Jesus was really the Messiah.

-He really did not UNDERSTAND what the Messiah was sent to do!

We tend to RUN AWAY from others (espec. Believers) when we are wounded.

-Like an animal, we ISOLATE when we are hurting.

-When we run away from loved ones in our pain, we also run away from God.

God wants to REVEAL HIMSELF to us when we are HURTING from invisible wounds.

-He WILL reveal himself to you if you will listen. Jeanna is evidence of this!

[Margaret Weather's banner -Jehovah-Shammah: The God who is there!]

26 "A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them . . . And Jesus said to Thomas, 'Touch my wounds . . . and believe.'"

It is VITAL for us to REALLY CONSIDER the HEALED WOUNDS of JESUS.

*What wounds did he have? [Not just physical: Betrayal, Abandonment, Rejection!]

*He suffered in EVERY WAY that we suffer; yet he did not deserve it!

-The GOSPEL is the ULTIMATE REJECTION of RELIGION: "You get what you DESERVE!" **Because HE did not, we DO NOT have to either!**

*Why did God allow his Son to SUFFER so much? **Isaiah 53:4-5 NIV**

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. [Just another human. Suffering and dying like the rest of us!] 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

What DIFFERENCE do the wounds of Jesus make in my personal suffering?

*His wounds were a sign of his MISSION and evidence of his LOVE.

-His wounds were CHOSEN for your sake!

-He IDENTIFIES with us in our wounds. Jesus is the WOUNDED HEALER!

God feels your pain! [Tear Bottles] Psalm 56:8 NIV

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You collect all my tears in your bottle!"

Your wounds may be the only things that help to PUSH YOU toward God!

“Sometimes God allows what he hates in order to accomplish what he LOVES!”

-Your wounds reveal your NEED for the Savior.

-Your wounds are evidence of our BROKEN WORLD’S need for redemption.

In the weeks to come, we will talk about HOW God can heal our wounds. But today, I only want to PRESS YOU toward accepting the truth THAT God can heal your wounds. GOD WANTS YOUR WOUNDS. HE DIED FOR THEM. I want you to BELIEVE! But I cannot make you believe. I can only POINT YOU toward him so that you can CHOOSE to believe for yourself. **John 20:29-31 NIV**

29 Then Jesus told him, ‘Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ 30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Blessed=Fortunate, Well off, HAPPY! [We ALL want to be blessed and happy!]
BELIEVE = to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to place confidence in, to CREDIT.

*TO CREDIT: You LOVE credit. You USE IT EVERYDAY. You buy furniture and toys and food to eat with it without blinking an eye! **How would you like to have a CREDIT CARD that SOMEONE ELSE pays off?** Sign me up for that one! Guess what? That is EXACTLY what Jesus did for you when he died on the cross. He only wants you to CREDIT HIM with the COST of your sin and sickness. He pays your debt and heals your wounds with his own!

So, WHAT ARE YOUR WOUNDS? [Rejection, Grief, Betrayal, Loss, Abandonment]
The truth is, most of the INVISIBLE wounds that we suffer from were actually CAUSED by the one thing that most of us never admit. It is why others wound us, and why we wound others. Jeanna has a wound that most of us can see, but she had a DEEPER WOUND that needed healing more urgently. That is the SAME WOUND that he wants to heal in us. **That wound is SIN.** It is the REASON why our world is BROKEN, and it is the REASON why Jesus had to die.

Romans 3:23 – For all have SINNED and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:34 – The wages of sin is DEATH, but the GIFT of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9 – If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and BELIEVE in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you WILL be SAVED!

Will you give God your wounds today? Will you TRUST HIM for your HEALING?

*There will come a day when there will be NO MORE WOUNDS.

-His resurrection made this possible.

-One day, you WILL see his wounds: Let that be a BLESSED DAY!

LET’S PRAY.