

**Lk 24:35-48; Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a Wounded Healer**

**Walking home from a party, two men decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery. Halfway through, they were startled to hear a tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows.**

**Shaking with fear, they were relieved to discover an old man with a chisel, chipping at one of the headstones.**

**“You scared us almost to death,” said one of the men. “We thought you were a ghost. What are you doing working here so late at night?”**

**“Those fools!” the old man grumbled. “They spelled my name wrong,”**

**The disciples thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus invited them to touch and see His Holy wounds. Do you know what that means? It means: *this is how much I love you and I will never abandon you.***

**And nothing could be more obvious than the implied promise: that we are going to live forever with a risen glorified body just like the Risen Christ.**

**Like the Risen Christ, our glorified body will be physically perfect—perfect as a young adult, and we will never suffer, get sick, get injured, grow old or even die.**

**And like the Risen Christ, our glorified body will be spiritual so we can change our appearance, appear and disappear, communicate with thoughts, and our days will be filled with peace and joy forever.<sup>1</sup>**

**So, the disciples were filled with the tremendous peace and joy, the world cannot give, but only Jesus can give (Jn 14:27).**

**We too are going to encounter the Risen Jesus in this mass when we put His body and His blood into our body and into our blood.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Paul J. Glenn: A Tour of the Summa pp 440-444; (B. Herder Book Co. St Louis, MO 1960).

**We too will touch Jesus. And we will be healed spiritually when our venial sins are forgiven...**

**and we are filled with the tremendous peace and joy of His Holy Spirit, His grace and His love--inside of us!**

**We too will be transformed and become more like Jesus when He opens our minds to understand the Holy Scriptures. Do you know how?**

**When we enter into the events of His life in this mass. On that altar, we will join Him at the last supper. On that altar, we will stand at the foot of His cross.**

**And the Risen Jesus will be in our midst -- in our hearts right now—to empower us so we think like Jesus, forgive like Jesus, give like Jesus and love like Jesus.**

**The disciples came to understand that Jesus' death and resurrection were God's plan all along. But why? Why did Jesus have to suffer? I'll tell you.**

**There is a line from Hebrews I never quite understood. It says: *Even though He was the Son, He learned obedience from what He suffered* (Heb 5:8).**

**But Jesus was always obedient. Yes I know. Yet Jesus had to become a “wounded healer.”**

**The story goes like this: The Talmud says that some rabbis asked Elijah to show them the Messiah. He said, go to where the lepers are, find the leper who, after binding his own wounds, begins to help the other lepers to bind their wounds. And that is the Messiah.”**

**So by His suffering, Jesus became sympathetic to our suffering. Think about it.**

**Those who have suffered and are in touch with their own brokenness, God can use them to heal others who are suffering. Whereas those who have never suffered are not sympathetic.**

**So Jesus became our wounded healer. And so should it be with us (Phil 3:10). Jesus said: *You are my witnesses to these things* (Lk 24:48).**

**But giving witness is more than just telling people about Jesus. Anyone can do that. Giving witness means testifying with our lives that Jesus has touched us, healed us, and transformed us.**

**A great example was Msgr. Mike Bunny. Right before He died, he said “I’ll take the Sacrament if you’ve got it.” And so I gave him Holy Communion.**

**How perfect that it was us resurrection priests, Fr. Jim and I, who saw him last. It was like a sign—that he was going to live forever!**

**How about us? How will we give witness to Jesus? St. John said the way to show the world that we truly “know” Jesus is if we keep His commandments (1 Jn 2:3).**

**I know. At times that may seem impossible. We fall into temptation. And our wounds come from the sins we commit against God.**

**But we have an advocate: When we go to confession, Jesus will forgive us our sins (1 Jn 2:1-2).**

**So don’t keep that to yourself. That is the greatest gift you can give anyone: the gift of Jesus. His story. The healing gift of forgiveness. And the way it has changed your life.**

**That is why Jesus commissions us to give witness by preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins in His name (Lk 24:47).**

**We saw St. Peter do that in the first reading. He who had denied and abandoned Jesus, now became a wounded healer.**

**Yes, the Jewish people had also denied and abandoned Jesus (Acts 3:13-14). But he did not condemn them. Instead, he invited them to convert, repent and get right with God (Acts 3:19).**

**Brothers and sisters, we are the wounded healers. We have been sent by Jesus to give witness with our lives to what He has done for us.**

**Let us not condemn them, but invite them to touch Jesus, to be transformed by Jesus and to give witness to Jesus. Because, after all: we are going to live forever.**