

Sunday, May 7, 2017
Did You Know?

“Jesus of the Scars”

I have to admit I rarely read poetry, that's if you exclude song lyrics, but recently I came across this moving poem written by an English minister named Edward Shillito, who was gravely impacted by the horrors he witnessed during World War I. Every Christian (perhaps every human) needs to have some sort of rationale for explaining human suffering. That's not easy though, as suffering is one of the most difficult themes to address. Even as a pastor I often feel at a loss for words to help our people through times of suffering. You don't want to give pat answers like, “Everything will be okay” or “It'll get better” or “God has a purpose” though all those words may be true. Sometimes, we just need to sit with people and not speak at all, maybe pray silently or to listen or read a Scripture. If you are going through suffering perhaps the words of this poem can speak to your pain as they bring you to the Savior who suffered for us.

“Jesus of the Scars” by Edward Shillito

*If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow,
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.*

*The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;
In all the universe we have no place.
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.*

*If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;
We know today what wounds are, have no fear,
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.*

*The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Peter