

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

April 27, 2025

The World Is Watching

If you're a parent, you know this to be true: the world is watching. All it takes is one slip-up — one bad word, one selfish action, one uncharitable commentary, and that's the thing your child seems to notice.

When he or she calls you on it, the only thing you can do is come clean. "Yep, I did that," you have to say. "I'm a work in progress, but luckily, God never stops working."

I think it's fair to say that we don't think enough about the wounds of Christ. It's a little understandable, of course. Our human bodies flinch at the sight of such pain and mortification. It's a lot to handle, the physical trauma of a crucifixion. It carries an R rating in a PG world.

But the wounds of Christ are the only thing that could make Thomas believe. Literally nothing else was so powerful, not even the testimony of his most trusted friends. Only by looking at and feeling the torn flesh — by beholding that messy reality — did this Apostle, this actual companion of Christ, come to believe in the Resurrection.

"Christ has no body now but yours," goes the famous quote attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. What she's saying is that we have become the means through which God chooses to accomplish His will in the world. Us, the broken. Us, the weary. Us, the imperfect. Yes, miraculous events and apparitions still occur from time to time, but by and large, if a person is going to come to believe in Jesus Christ in this day and age, it will be because of something we Christians do or say.

Christ has no wounds now but ours. Our brokenness, our weariness, our imperfection — our reality. It all belongs to him, and the world is watching.

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*