

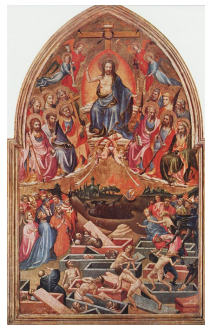
*The Mark of the Nails:
Resurrection, Identity, and Bodies in
the Doubting Thomas Episode*

Candida R. Moss
British New Testament Conference
September 5, 2019

Petrus Christus, *Man of Sorrows* (c. 1540)



Master of Bambino Vispo *The Last Judgment* (ca. 1422)



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Rembrandt, *Doubting Thomas* (1634)



Luke 24:39-40

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost (πνεῦμα) does not have flesh and bones (σάρκα καὶ ὀστέα οὐκ ἔχει) as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

John 20:25-27

So the other disciples told [Thomas], "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands (τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων), and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Petrus Christus, *Man of Sorrows* (c. 1540)



Lauber Workshop, Martin of Opava, *Chronicon* (c.1460)



Vesperbild Pietà (ca. 1330)



Detail of Vesperbild Pietà (ca. 1330)



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Cloister Capital, Santo Domingo de Silos (11th century)



Caravaggio, *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* (1602)



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typoi



typoi



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typoi



Philo

...the scars and impressions (οὐλαὶ καὶ τύποι) of [these sinners's] old offences remain not the less in the souls of those who repent...

Laws 1.103

Galen

In fact **it is in the ability of anyone who wishes to do so, to see**, in a very large number of those who engage in single combat every day [gladiators], **major wounds scabbing over without inflammation so that by the second or fourth day, they are totally out of danger.**

Method of Medicine 5.15

Galen

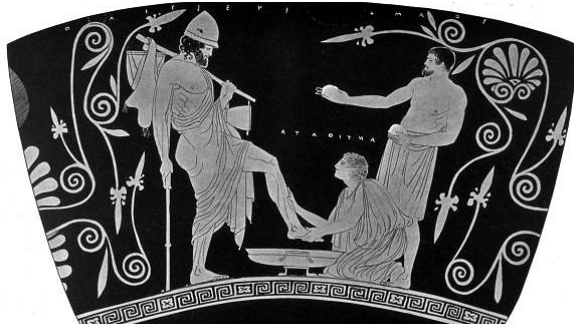
It is possible for the vein to re-unite without becoming inflamed... For we have frequently witnessed among the gladiators a whole thigh or arm which is cut open [and would] heal before displaying inflammation, and especially, as Hippocrates says, whenever there happens to be a profuse and immediate bleeding.

On Venesection, 7

Caravaggio, *The Incredulity of Saint Thomas* (1602)



Odysseus



Eurykleia and Odysseus. Attic red figure cup c. 440 BCE. Museo Nazionale, Chiusi, Italy.

Xenophon

... and bearing in his body visible tokens of the fury of his fighting, so that not by hearsay but by evidence of their own eyes men can judge what manner of man he is.

Agesilaus 6.2

Josephus

Hereupon Antipater threw away his garments, and showed the multitude of the wounds he had, and said, that as to his good will to Caesar, he had no occasion to say a word, **because his body cried aloud**, though he said nothing himself.

War 1.197

Livy

... he exhibited scars on his breast, testimonies of honorable battles...

History of Rome 2.23

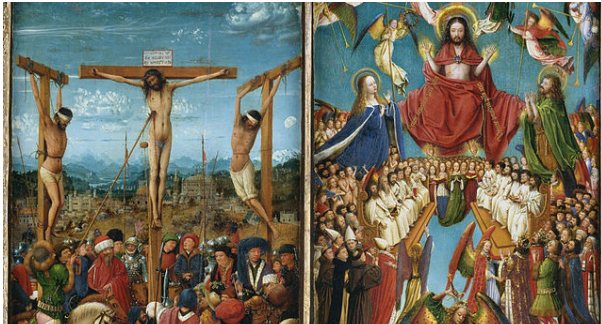
I have my body plentifully marked with honorable scars, all received in front.

History of Rome 45.39

...those disfiguring scars of servitude...

History of Rome 39.37

Van Eyck, *Crucifixion and Last Judgment* (c.1430)



Nolde, Detail from *The Life of Christ* (1867)



Cyril of Alexandria

By showing his wounded side and the marks of the nails, he convinced us beyond a doubt that he had raised the temple of his body, the very body that had hung on the cross.

Commentary on the Gospel of John 12.1

Homer

Then I pondered in my mind and wanted to embrace my dead mother's soul (ψυχὴν). Three times I rushed, and my heart urged me to hold her, and three times **she flew from my hands like a shadow or even a dream**, and the pain became sharper in my heart... [she says] 'Oh my, my child, ill-fated beyond all men, Zeus's daughter Persephone is in no way tricking you, but this is the way of mortals when one dies. For sinews no longer hold flesh and bones together, but the mighty fury of blazing fire consumes them, as soon as **life (θυμός) leaves the white bones, and the soul, like a dream, flies about and flies away.**'

Odyssey 11.204-8, 216-22

Phlegon

Machates ... wished to investigate the whole incredible matter to find out if the girl [Philinnion] he was **consorting with, who took care to come to him at the same hour, was actually dead. As she ate and drank with him, he simply could not believe what the others had told him...**[her parents] **embraced** her...

Book of Marvels 1

Plato

if anyone's body was large by nature or by feeding or by both when he was alive, his corpse will be large also when he is dead; and if he was fat, it will be fat too after his death, and so on for the rest... Again, if anyone had been a sturdy rogue, and bore traces of his stripes in scars on his body, either from the whip or from other wounds, while yet alive, **then after death too his body has these marks visible upon it; or if anyone's limbs were broken or distorted in life, these same effects are manifest in death.**

Gorgias 524c.

Mantegna, *Lamentation of Christ* (ca.1480)



Mark of the Nails

Stom, *The Doubting of Thomas* (1620)



Botticelli, *Christ Crowned with Thorns Presents the Stigmata* (1490)

