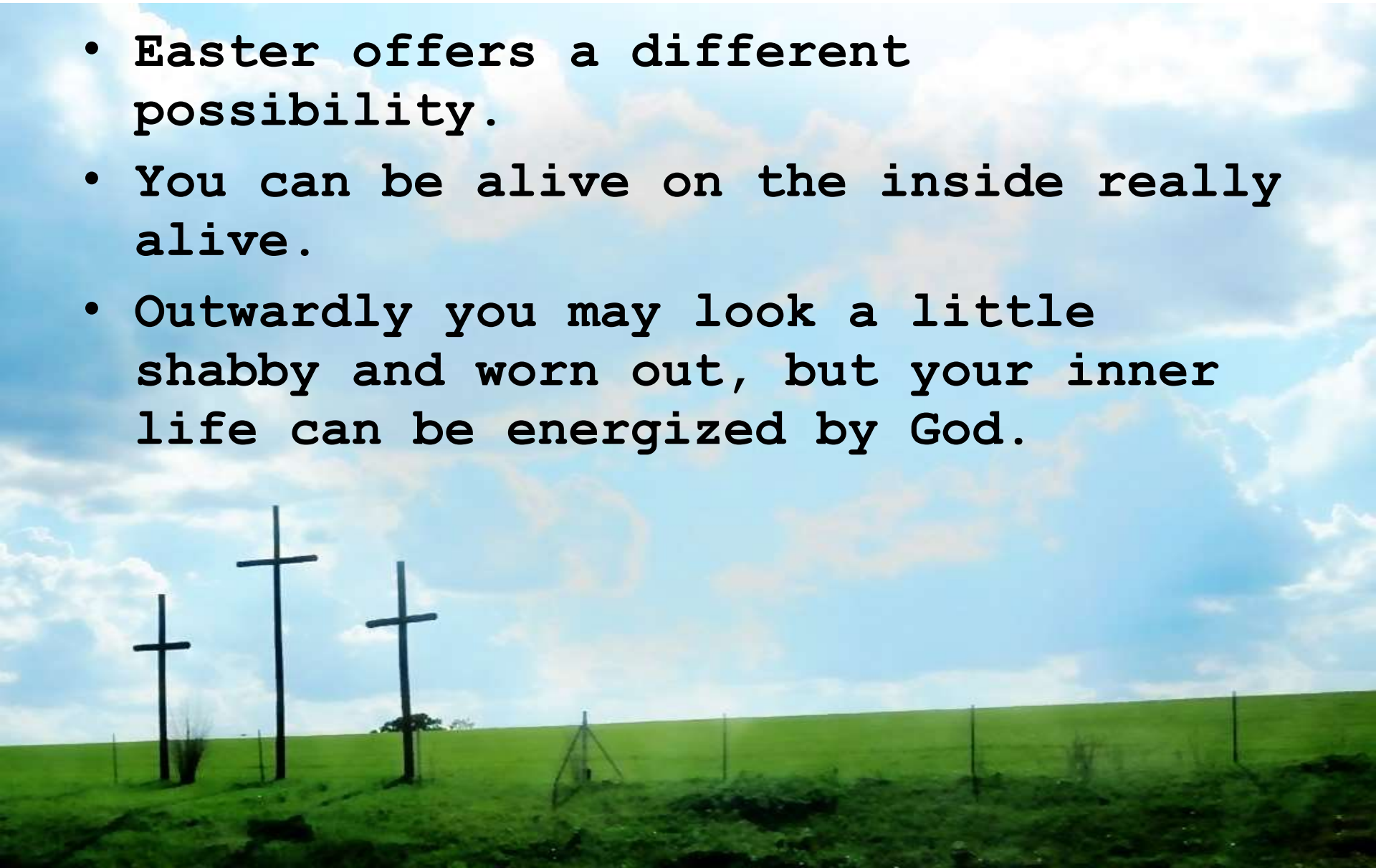


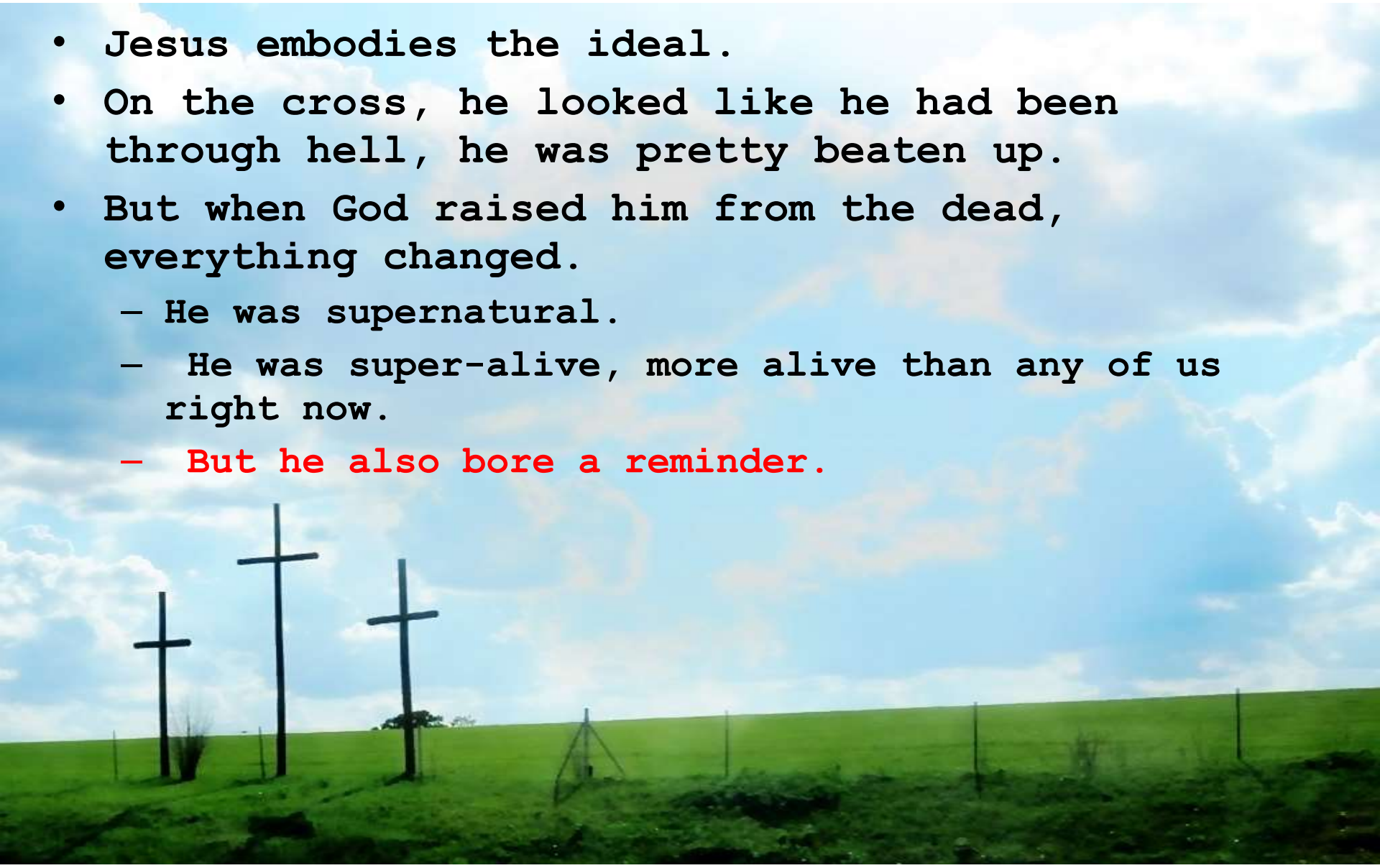
THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Easter offers a different possibility.
- You can be alive on the inside really alive.
- Outwardly you may look a little shabby and worn out, but your inner life can be energized by God.



THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Jesus embodies the ideal.
- On the cross, he looked like he had been through hell, he was pretty beaten up.
- But when God raised him from the dead, everything changed.
 - He was supernatural.
 - He was super-alive, more alive than any of us right now.
 - But he also bore a reminder.



THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Jesus after Easter.
 - He had some amazing qualities.
 - Appearing inside locked rooms.
 - Appearing in different regions of the country unannounced.
 - Changing his appearance.



THE SCARS OF EASTER

- A curious feature of his appearance.
 - He still had scars.
 - The gospels mention his hands and feet and side.
 - Was there more?



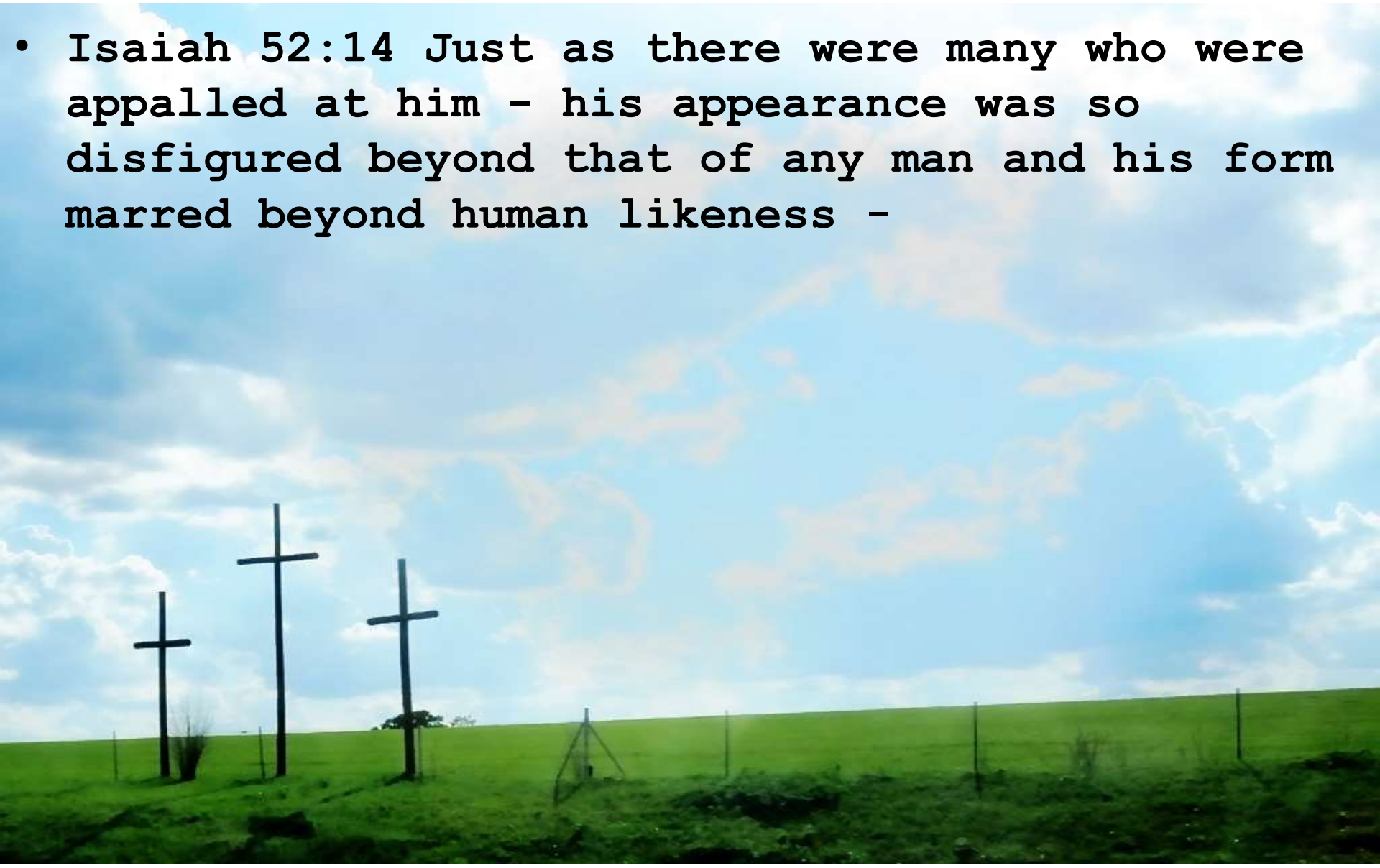
THE SCARS OF EASTER

- An ancient prophecy about Easter.
- Isaiah 52 - 53 gives the clearest picture of Easter.
- 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
 - V9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, **nor was any deceit in his mouth.**



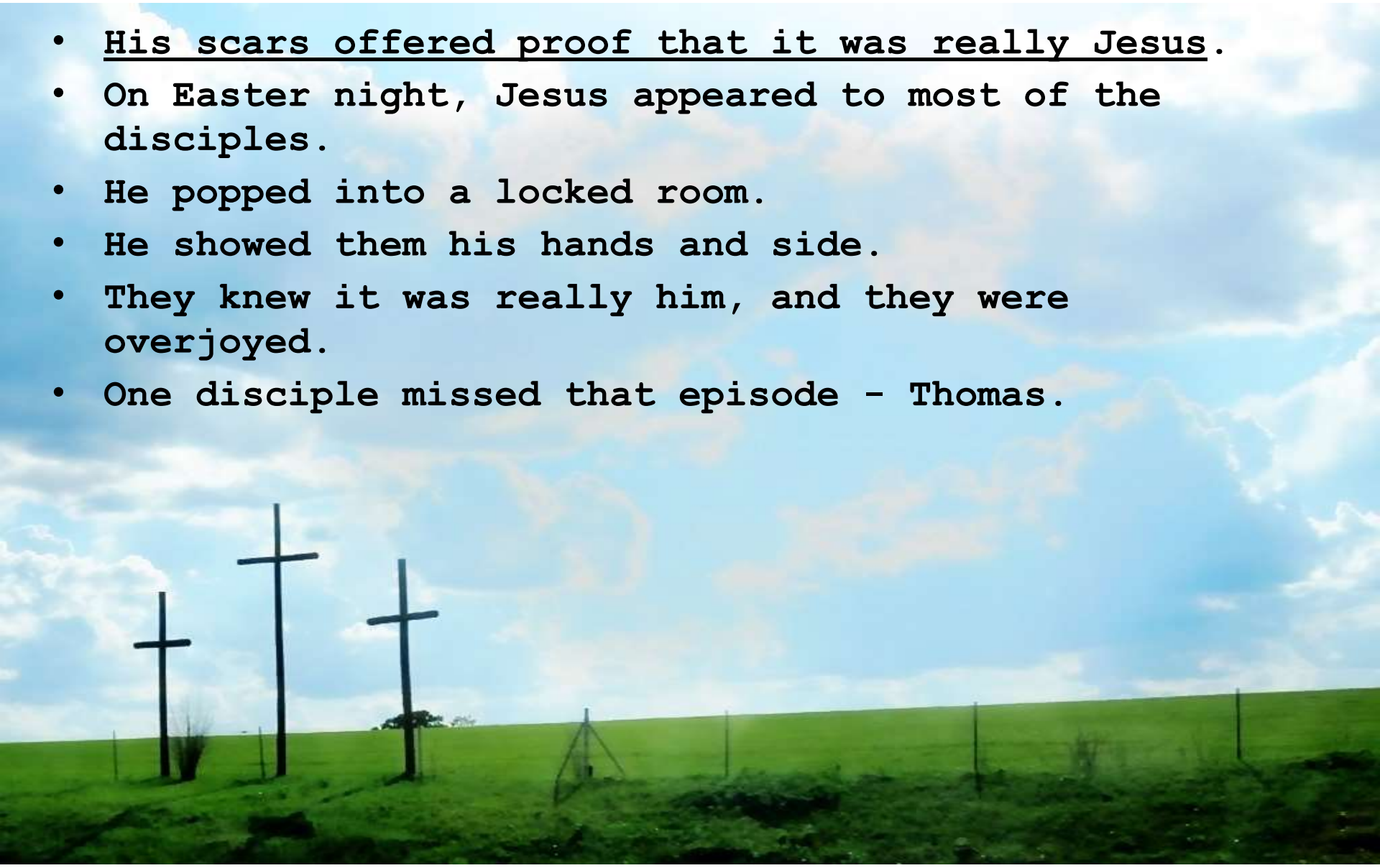
THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Isaiah 52:14 Just as there were many who were appalled at him - his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness -



THE SCARS OF EASTER

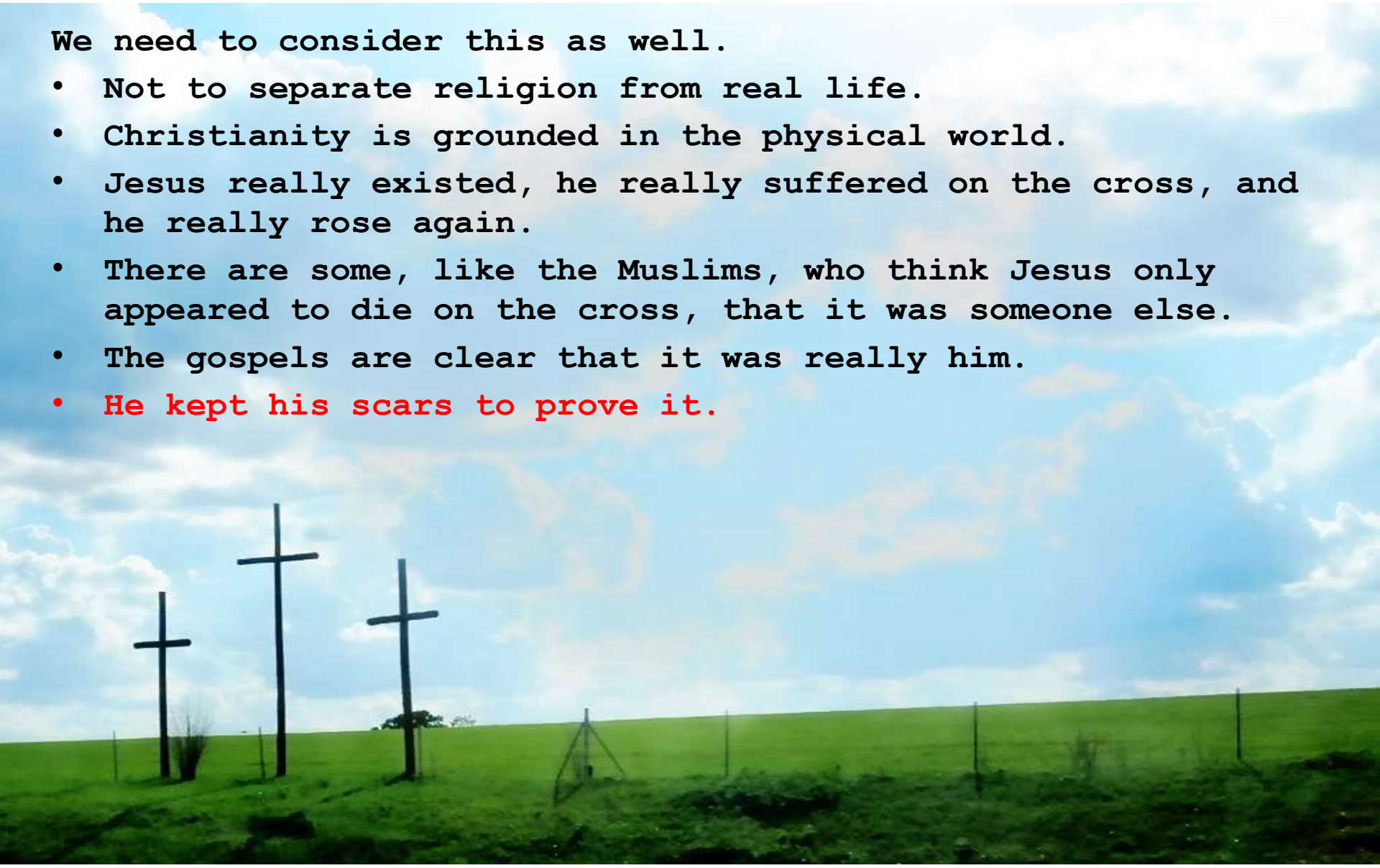
- His scars offered proof that it was really Jesus.
- On Easter night, Jesus appeared to most of the disciples.
- He popped into a locked room.
- He showed them his hands and side.
- They knew it was really him, and they were overjoyed.
- One disciple missed that episode - Thomas.



THE SCARS OF EASTER

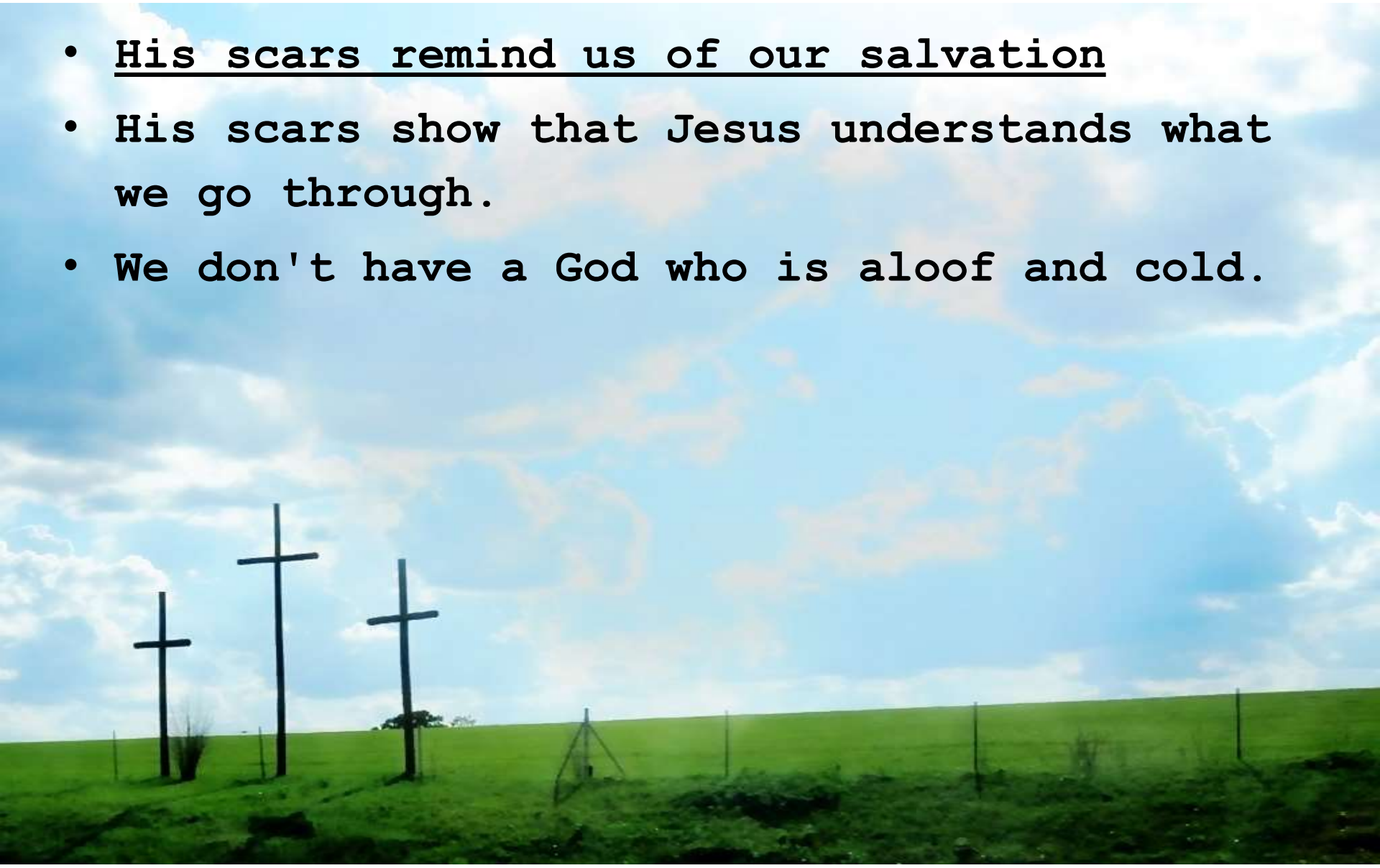
We need to consider this as well.

- Not to separate religion from real life.
- Christianity is grounded in the physical world.
- Jesus really existed, he really suffered on the cross, and he really rose again.
- There are some, like the Muslims, who think Jesus only appeared to die on the cross, that it was someone else.
- The gospels are clear that it was really him.
- **He kept his scars to prove it.**



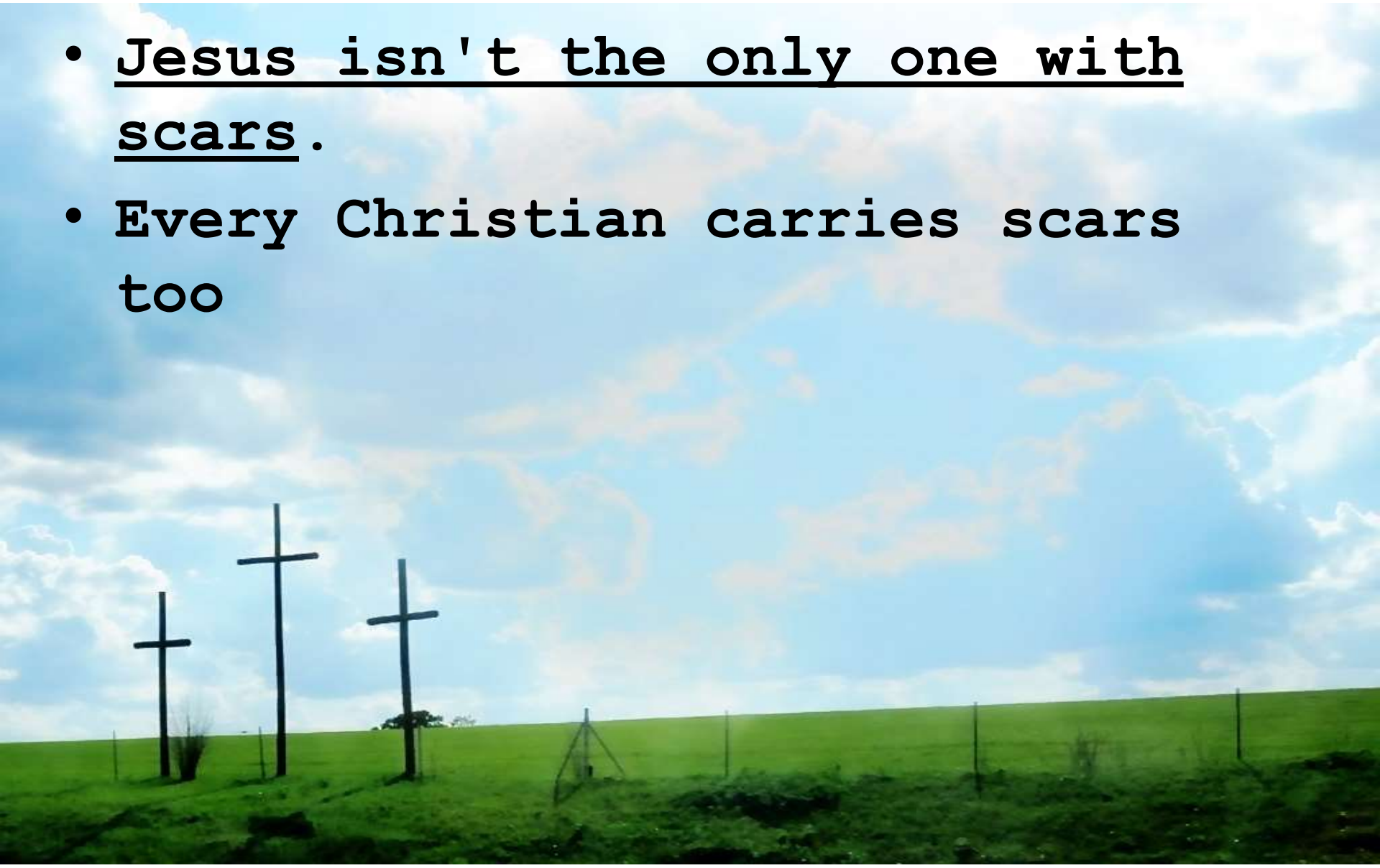
THE SCARS OF EASTER

- His scars remind us of our salvation
- His scars show that Jesus understands what we go through.
- We don't have a God who is aloof and cold.



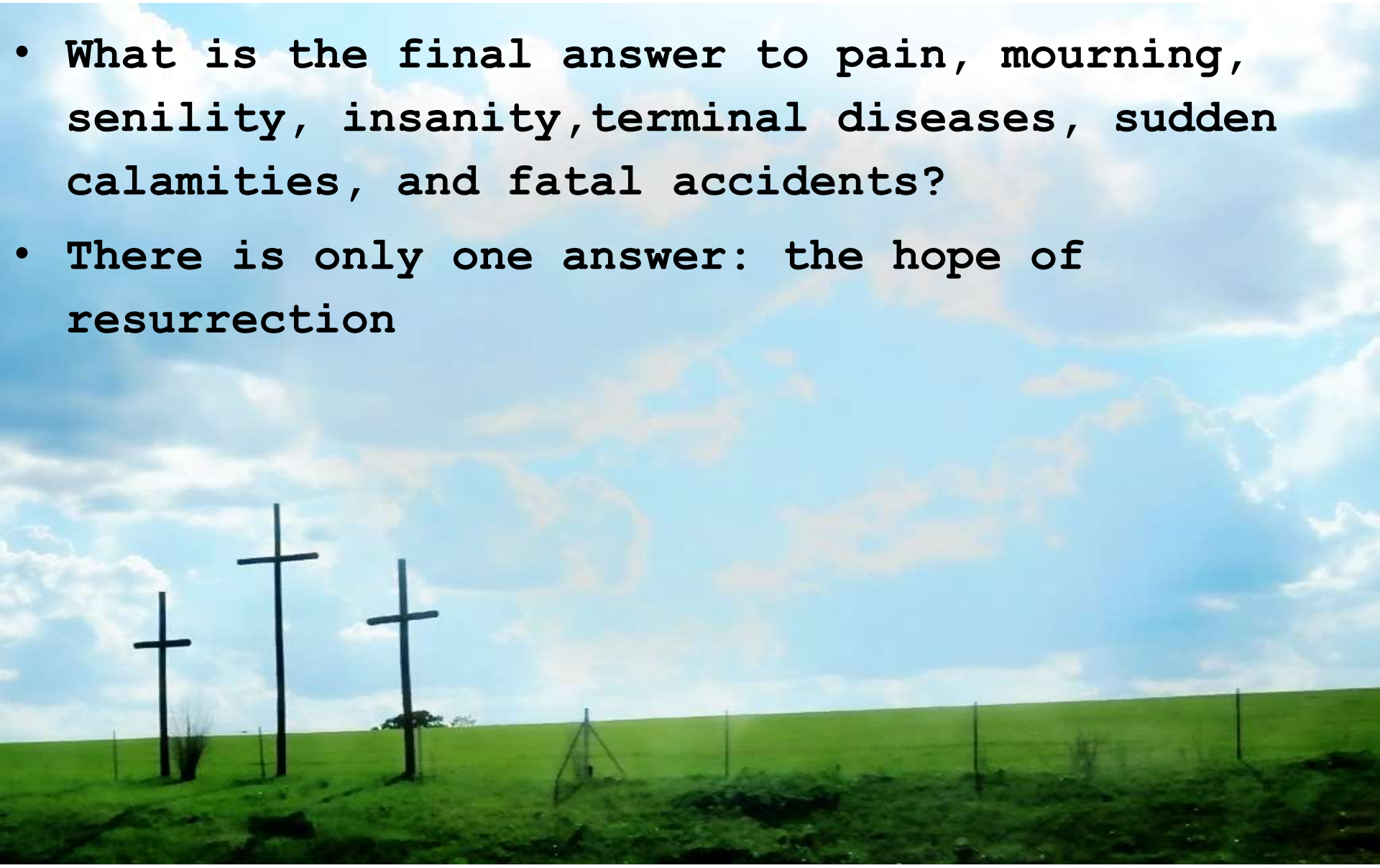
THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Jesus isn't the only one with scars.
- Every Christian carries scars too



THE SCARS OF EASTER

- What is the final answer to pain, mourning, senility, insanity, terminal diseases, sudden calamities, and fatal accidents?
- There is only one answer: the hope of resurrection



THE SCARS OF EASTER

- Easter overcomes our scars.
- God offers something greater than your deepest pain.
- We can have a victory that conquers even death.
- It is about real life

