

2021 DIOCESAN WYD

2023 WYD LISBON

«Arise! I will make you a witness of what you have seen!»

We Invoke the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit come join us in these moments when we open our hearts and minds to listen to the message of God and to put into action!

Amen

Acts of the Apostles 26: 9-18

⁹“I used to think I should do everything I could to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰That’s just what I was doing in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests, I put many of the Lord’s people in prison. When they were brought to trial, I cast my vote to have them killed. ¹¹I often went from one synagogue to another to find them and punish them. I even tried to force them to speak against Jesus. I wanted so badly to hurt them that I even made trips to foreign cities to look for them.

¹²“On one of those trips I was going to Damascus with letters from the chief priests saying I could act for them. ¹³Around noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the way there, I saw a light coming from heaven. It was brighter than the sun, and it shone all around me and the people with me. ¹⁴We fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul! Saul! Why are you attacking me? You’re only hurting yourself when you resist me.’

¹⁵“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“‘I’m Jesus,’ the Lord replied, ‘the one you’ve been attacking. ¹⁶Now get up and stand on your feet. I’ve appeared to you to appoint you to serve me and tell other people about me. You must tell others what I’ve shown you today and what I’ll show you in the future. ¹⁷I will save you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I’m sending you to them ¹⁸to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God. I want them to have their sins forgiven and find a place among God’s people by believing in me.’

RADIATE CATHOLIC VERSION

**** This is the version that Pope Francis proposes: “Arise! I make you a witness of what you have seen!”**

 The Word of the Lord Reading, What does the text say?**Biblical Commentary:**

This chapter is also known as the defense of Paul before Agrippa. It is the last discourse in the book of Acts, in which Paul speaks of his conversion and vocation for the third time. He begins with his past life as a member of the Jewish people and of the rigid group of the Pharisees. Este capítulo es también conocido como la defensa de Pablo ante Agripa. Has he given up his Jewish roots? Not at all. He will show that his present life is a consequence of his Jewish identity.

According to Paul, everything stems from the hope of the promise that God made to “our fathers” (6), a hope which the tribes of Israel have kept alive. The accuse him of having this hope. What is this hope all about? Even though Paul doesn’t say it explicitly, his intentions are clear: the radical human desire to live is reflected in the hope in the resurrection.

Well then, this is what God had promised and he has now fulfilled the promise by resurrecting Jesus, the Messiah. His accusers are the ones that, having accepted the promise, now do not accept its fulfilment in the resurrection of Jesus.

He continues by narrating his cruel life as a persecutor of Christians. There is no other text in which the Apostle describes his fanatic obsession. He then testifies about the radical changed suffered on the road to Damascus. This is the third time that he mentions the event, but in this account he differs from the previous accounts in a striking way. Verse 14 contains an expression that means something like “why do you keep on hitting your head against the wall” or perhaps “only idiots oppose me.” They are colloquial expressions in which Jesus is telling Paul to not oppose him since Paul the Pharisee opposed the first Christians. This phrase expresses in greater detail what was said for the first time in Acts 9:3-7 and then in Acts 22:6-9.

He does not mention his blindness, his healing, Ananias intervention, or his escape from Damascus. **His conversion becomes a vocation, in the same way as prophetic vocations took place (cfr. Is 42:7; 61:1).** However, his testimony, remains the same: Jesus, the first to be resurrected from the dead, is now the universal light for all without distinguishing Jews or Pagans. This is the way that Paul’s beautiful discourse ends.

For the closed-minded Roman governor, Paul's testimony is not a crime; it is madness. The study has disturbed the defendant, he says.

Before the Roman's skepticism, Paul appeals to the wisdom of Agrippa, another Jew. The king evades this with a courteous exit.

Excited with missionary zeal, Paul now addresses all those present. He would love for all of them to be Christians and without chains, truly free. The final verdict is not pronounced in court, but in private. The narrator makes sure that the reader listens to him before Pablo embarks. Agrippa does not understand that, in God's plan, the trip to Rome is paid for with imprisonment.

Text reconstruction:

1. At one time, Who was Paul fighting against?
2. In Jerusalem, who gave Paul authority and what was it for?
3. What did Paul do in the synagogues? What else did he do?
4. What happened to Paul on the road to Damascus?
5. What did he hear?, was it in Spanish, English, or Portuguese?
6. What did Paul ask the voice?
7. What did the voice answer?
8. Whose voice was it?
9. What was Jesus' first order to Paul?
10. What would he make him a testimony of?
11. From whom will Jesus defend Paul?
12. What is the mission that Jesus gives Paul?

 **Following this text, What are the words or phrases or attitudes that attract your attention, your interest?**

Meditation, What does the text tell us?

From our childhood, adolescence to our youth, we find many occasions in which we are confronted with ideals that sometimes promote a particular perspective while not permitting us to see the entire picture or the truth, until we reach a moment in which we hear someone or we participate in something or read something or something happens which changes our perspective and then we begin to better understand our difficulties in life: Do you remember something like this happening to you? Can you talk about it? What is your experience today? What would you tell others?

During the journey of life we realize that we are all very different, not only physically, but also in the way we think, act, and many other things. However, we have many things in common as well. What is your behavior or attitude toward others like, especially with those with whom you have little in common?

We are constantly learning from ourselves and/or from those around us. Still, we go getting things right and getting things wrong. How do these “getting things right” help us in life? What do I use these for? What is my attitude in face of my errors? Have I ever had an experience like the that first meeting of Jesus and Paul, in which I hold to an ideal but someone appears and enlightens me and then together with what I believed, I fall because I realize that I was in the error, but he immediately comes over and says "Arise" for you must go on? Do I also feel that I should share my experience?

 **Following the message of this text, What is your meditation, your personal reflection?**

Prayer, What do we say to God?

JESUS SAID TO ME: ARISE!

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

1. I lived through life but did not understand
That the life I was living was without meaning
The problems I was facing, I confess
Seemed to always be the fault of other people

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

2. The level of immaturity I attained,
Was such that I blamed all others for my actions
I fell into the pit of meaningless,
All my friends could notice my dissatisfaction

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

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3. Yet Jesus always remained right next to me,
He showed me all my life in a single instant,
He poured His love on me and raised me up,
Today I witness His Love at every moment.

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

4. Come with me my brother arise with me,
Take my hand and come with me for you are my friend,
Do not be afraid we're here with you,
Today you too are being invited to be His witness.

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

5. All of us make mistakes along the way,
All of us learn good lessons from our failures.
Do not be afraid anymore,
Mother Mary travels with you, and the joy of Jesus.

Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You will give witness that I am with you!
Arise, Arise, Arise, Arise Again!
You must tell what you have seen, for you are my friend.

 **Following the message of this text, What is your personal prayer?**

Each person shares their intentions.

Amen

Contemplation, How do we internalize the Word of God?

«Arise! I will make you a witness of what you have seen!»

(We repeat)

«Arise! I will make you a witness of what you have seen!»

«Arise! I will make you a witness of what you have seen!»

 Following the message from this text, Which phrase or word, or paragraph or attitude helps you remember this text?

Action, What is my commitment to God?

1. Make a list of my ideals on various subjects and share them with my colleagues and explain my experiences
2. List the most common attitudes that I adopt with respect of others and explain them.
3. Make a list of historical persons or from everyday life that I have as models (light) in order to form my critical thinking.
4. Using art, represent this biblical text and leave a message.
5. Using the song, let us reflect this Lectio Divina by creating a skit or choreography, videotape it and upload it to social networks with #jnj2021 #wyd2021 #crstonautasfrp

 Following the message of this text, What concrete action is it inviting you to perform?