

# “Arise”

**Introduction.** Jim Holm wrote, “When I was in third grade, I was condemned to live under a law of nearsightedness. My eyes went bad, and today I’m considered legally blind. I’m not free; I’m in bondage to this law. I hate it. But it doesn’t matter. There’s no escape.

One day I discovered there was a greater law that can overcome the law of nearsightedness. It’s the law of glasses. When I submitted myself to the law of corrective lenses, the law of nearsightedness was overcome. The law of nearsightedness is still there, but it was overpowered by a greater law that enabled me to see.

Here’s the irony: You would think if I want to be free, I’d throw the glasses away. But that’s not freedom. Only by submitting to the law of glasses do I become free.”

Submitting to the law of God means knowing how to react to the calling of God. And that’s where our lesson comes in today. The word “arise” appears 143 times in the NKJV Bible. The term is the tip of the spear in a necessary action that must be undertaken. It’s the first step toward completing the will of God. Let’s take a look at four instances to see what the word indicates and how it motivates. Faith and hope are not complete until we “Arise” and do what’s commanded.

## **I. Mark 2:11**

- A. Jesus was preaching in a house, and many people crowded around to hear Him. Four men brought a paralyzed man on a cot to him, but they couldn’t get to the door because of the crowd (vv. 1-10).
- B. The men climbed on the roof and tore away the tiles, letting the man down on his bed to Jesus. Jesus saw their faith (determination, commitment, and belief that Jesus could heal the man), and healed him.
- C. First, though, He said, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” Jesus’ statement indicated that forgiveness of sins was much more important a gift than the restored health of the man’s body (v. 5).
- D. However, the scribes, who were always nearby waiting to catch Jesus in a crime against God, questioned who Jesus was to presume to forgive sins (vv. 6-7).
- E. Jesus questioned their hypocritical jeering, and told the crowd that He could do both — heal and forgive. So he commanded the man to “Arise, take up your bed and walk” (vv. 8-9).
- F. Imagine for a moment this man’s plight. The text tells us he was a paralytic. This means he couldn’t move on his own.
  1. Jesus simply said, “Your sins are forgiven!” not “You’re now healed!” Based on these words, which weren’t what he was hoping to hear, he was now told to walk. What must the man have thought?
  2. He may have been paralyzed from birth. He may have never moved a single muscle. Now, the Lord of heaven and earth said, “Get up!”
  3. That the paralytic man put his feet on the ground was evidence of his faith, but also proof of who Jesus is. He wasn’t just some healer traveling the land.

- G. So many people have to make the decision of whether they want to be healed. They may need help growing in their spirituality, morality, or salvation. Or maybe they need help with their marriage or their children's devotion.
1. For so many people it's just excuse after excuse as to why they can't do something in the service of the Lord.
  2. Remember, you're turning down the Lord of heaven, not the solar panel people who come to your house. And you're going to face God in judgment for it. It may be time for you to arise, take up your bed, and walk.

## **II. Matthew 17:7**

- A. Jesus talked with Moses and Elijah who appeared with Him. Peter, James, and John were eyewitnesses of this (vv. 1-6; cp. 2 Peter 1:16-18).
- B. The command to "Arise" here indicated to the apostles that what they had seen wasn't the end. They had witnessed a truly remarkable event, to which the other apostles weren't privy. Surely, they must've been lost in the moment as any man would be, being overwhelmed by the sight.
- C. Yet, they needed to get moving because they were soon going to be ministers preaching the gospel of the man in whom God was well pleased, whose way was paved by the great men Moses and Elijah (Acts 1:8; Romans 10:15; 1 Corinthians 1:17). This is a fantastic reminder that we have work to do as faithful subjects of the King (Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10).

## **III. Luke 15:18**

- A. A wealthy man was told by his young wayward son, "Give me the portion of goods that fall to me" (v. 12).
- B. Later, after the son had wasted everything on riotous living, he came to his senses and realized that he needed to change his life.
- C. He didn't deserve his father's love nor forgiveness, but he would apologize and hope for a position as a mere slave in his father's service.
- D. This is some excellent "come to Jesus" thinking. The formerly arrogant young man was no longer arrogant and conceited. But he still needed to "Arise!" and go to his father and make amends (Acts 17:30-31; cp. 2 Corinthians 12:20-21; Revelation 9:20-21). This is a great way to illustrate repentance and the exhortation of Ephesians 5:14.

## **IV. Acts 22:10, 16**

- A. He couldn't go through this recent conversation with Jesus and remain where he was. When he asked what Jesus wanted him to do, he was told to "Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do" (v. 10).
- B. Once Saul heard the gospel of Christ, he needed to "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (v. 16).
- C. Saul of Tarsus was a man of action. He didn't sit idly waiting for Christians to "repent" and return to Moses' Law. He went on a hunt to bring them forcibly, if need be, back home (Acts 8:1, 3).

D. This man of action was now called to “Arise” and obey the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he had formerly persecuted (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-15).

**Conclusion.** Joseph the father of Jesus was a humble man. Herod the king wanted to remove anyone whom he saw as a threat to his power as king of the Jews.

You have to sympathize with Joseph. He was given a lot of instructions that were difficult to accept and obey. Now, on top of this, he had to hear that his betrothed wife was going to have a baby which wasn't his. And Joseph is told to protect the child's life at all costs. The command to “Arise” in Matthew 2:12-13 was the spark Joseph needed to overcome inertia and get moving.

Words of life are intended to stir and provoke. Maybe you've heard something today that will make you arise and obey God.

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