**R761 Rumination for 08 Sept., 2019**

The **T**heme: **Be Ye Witnesses**

The **T**ext: *And ye shall be* ***witnesses*** *unto Me…unto the uttermost part of the earth.* Acts 1:8

The **T**hots:

Intro.: What are we to be Witnesses to…?

***And ye shall be Witnesses unto Me…***

1. **Jesus, His Manner of Life and Miracles on Earth. Acts 10:39**

***We are witnesses*** *of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem…*

1. His **S**potlessness in Life. Lk. 23:47

*When the centurion saw what was done, He glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous* ***M****an.*

1. His **S**peech in Life. Jn. 7:46

*The officers answered, Never man spake like this* ***M****an.*

1. His **S**upremacy over nature. Mk. 4:41;Lk. 8:25

*What* ***M****anner of* ***M****an is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?*

1. **Jesus and His Majesty on the Mount of Transfiguration**. **II Pet. 1:16**

***For we…were eyewitnesses*** *of His* ***M****ajesty.*

1. There He **M**ade **M**anifestHis **M**ajesty. II Pet. 1:16-18

*For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.*

1. There He **M**etamorphosed to show His Deity. Matt. 17:2, HCSB

*He was transformed in front of them, and His face shone like the sun.*

*Even His clothes became as white as the light.*

1. The **M**eaning of “*Transform”* [Gk. is *metamorphoō* from *meta* and *morphoo*] Strong
2. Thus, “***M****etamorphose*” = transfigure, transform or change completely the nature of.
3. Jesus is the “**M**ystery of Godliness” – He was God in the flesh. I Tim. 3:16
4. *Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*
5. *... Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:* I Jn. 4:2
6. **Jesus and His Crucifixion on the Cross.** **I Pet. 5:1**

***I…am also an elder, and a witness*** *of the sufferings of Christ…*

1. At **F**irst, Peter professed his **F**aithfulness to Jesus. Matt. 26:33, NRSV
2. Peter Professed that he would never **D**esert Jesus.

*Peter said to Him, "Though all become deserters because of You, I will never desert You."*

1. But Jesus **D**eclared Peter would **D**eny Him thrice. Matt. 26:34, NRSV

*Jesus said…"I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times."*

1. Later, Peter **F**ollowed Jesus and Witnessed His Sufferings but from **F**ar off. Matt. 26:58

*But Peter followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace…* Mk. 14:54

1. In the end, Peter denied Jesus thrice and with the disciples **F**orsook Jesus and **F**led.

*Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled.* Mt. 26:56

1. But Peter was **R**emembered after Jesus’ **R**esurrection: Mk. 16:7

*But go your way, tell His disciples* ***and Peter*** *that He goeth before you into Galilee:*

*there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.*

1. Jesus **R**estored Peter and Appointed him His Witness to feed His Lambs. Jn. 21:15-17
2. Peter **C**onfessed thrice that he Loved Jesus – *Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee.*
3. Jesus **C**onfirmed His love for Him and appointed him to the **W**ork of feeding His sheep.
4. Peter thus became the **W**itness of the Sufferings of Christ. I Pet. 5:1

1. **Jesus and His Resurrection from the Tomb.** **Acts 5:30-32**

*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree…*

***And we are his witnesses*** *of these things…*

1. **P**eter’s **P**ledge to **O**bey God. Acts 5:29

*Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

1. The **O**bjective of his Witness: Acts 5:30-31
2. Witness to His Death and **R**esurrection.

*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.*

1. Witness to His **R**oyal Exaltation – *Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince…*
2. Witness to His offer of **R**edemption and Forgiveness on their **R**epentance.

*for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.*

*Ye shall be My witnesses, Was Jesus’ last command, To every kindred tongue and tribe,*

*In every clime and land; Go, tell them of our Christ and say His kingdom is at hand,*

*Who will go and witness for Jesus? Tell it out, tell it out,*

*The blessèd Gospel sound, Tell it out, tell it out, The news the world around,*

*Till the name of Jesus has Been heard wherever man is found,*

 *Who will go and witness for Jesus?* J. M. Kirk

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 761**

1. How do you testify, or what do you witness to, for the Lord?

Is it as with the blind man whom Jesus told to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam after He had “anointed” his eyes with clay of His spittle and could see after that?

His testimony was of his personal experience, as

John 9:17 - *They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of Him,*

 *that He hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.*

John 9:24 *- Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him,*

 *Give God the praise: we know that this Man is a sinner.*

John 9:25 *- He answered and said,* ***Whether He be a sinner or no,***

 ***I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see****.*

The blind man who was healed witnessed to the Person of the Lord firstly from what he heard from others that He was a Prophet, and secondly that He was the Person Who healed him and gave sight to him. He relied on His Personal experience to witness for the Lord.

Or will you be like Paul, also almost with the same experience of being struck blind on the road to Damascus, but made to see by the prophet Ananias later. But after that in his witness, he stressed more on his personal relationship with the Lord that became the hallmark of his witness - he was prepared even to put aside his personal credibility as

**Philippians 3:4-14** –

*Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.* ***But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.***

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:* ***That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto His death...****that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Have you a personal relationship with the Lord through His Word that you can relate to in your walk with Him day by day to which you can bear witness? **REFLECT.**

1. Also compare the witness of Samuel:

I Sam. 12:3 – *Behold, here I am:* ***witness******against me*** *before the LORD, and before His anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you.*

Samuel was one consistent prophet who dared to charge those around him to witness against any wrongdoing he might have committed.

And consider too the people’s response to his challenge:

I Sam. 12:4 – *And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us,*

 *neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand*.

I Sam. 12: 5 – And Samuel’s Confidence, Courage and Commitment -

*He said unto them, The LORD is* ***witness******against you****, and His anointed is* ***witness*** *this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered,* ***He is witness****.*

Can you testify to such a Witness on your part in your Walk with the Lord? **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder: *Witness for the Lord such that no one can Witness against you.***