

# MAY 7

TUESDAY | EASTER WEEKDAY

“We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.’”  
Acts 26:14 NLT

## [lectio] // ACTS 26:1-18

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

“It is hard for you to kick against the oxgoads.” Kicking against the pricks, to kick back against being goaded or to struggle against one's fate. First, the oxgoad is a long pole or stick with a pointed piece of iron fastened to one end. In the strong hands of a loving master, the ox is gently prodded, guided, steered and driven in the desired direction when plowing the fields. When a stubborn ox attempts to kick back against the goad that is causing it discomfort, the ox will actually inflict more pain, driving the pointed end deeper into its flesh. When Jesus rebuked Saul (who would soon become the apostle Paul) for kicking against the goads, He was telling the proud Pharisee that he was only hurting himself in resisting the truth and teaching of Christ. The more he resisted the more he suffered. The harder he kicked the deeper the goad drove into his flesh. A modern equivalent to this timeless message is, “Don't bite the hand that feeds you!” ([https://www.goodnewsfl.org/kicking\\_against\\_the\\_goadsthe\\_meaning\\_and\\_message/](https://www.goodnewsfl.org/kicking_against_the_goadsthe_meaning_and_message/)). The “will” of God, in this case, was Saul's resistance to truth not necessarily him accepting his fate as a future apostle. Still, it is interesting that God uses an ancient illustration of stubbornness to remind Saul of just how far off-track he had wandered. The ox is far more compliant than humans!

## [oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

There is a lot in this little phrase that you spoke to Saul. Not just, “why do you persecute ME,” but this very old saying of stubborn as an ox (who isn't all that stubborn compared to humans). This speaks to my heart as well. Again, you know what you are doing and the idea is to follow your lead into all truth! I don't get to create or follow my own truth, I can only sense (listen) and obey yours! Your will is good (and always triumphant anyways). Resistance is futile (for our own good).

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root