

## Palm Sunday 2024

### Matthew 21 - A Donkey and a Temple

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: Quote: Zechariah 9 - Written...

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David!

'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" 11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

**Pray!**

**Today is Palm Sunday - the week before Resurrection Sunday!**

**A) Palm Sunday is when we consider the Day Jesus road into Jerusalem for his triumphal entry**

**B) There is much we could consider about this day**  
1) We could talk about the prophecies fulfilled on this day - **Done that**

**C) We could talk about the contrast - This Triumphal entry - Roman Triumphal entry - done that**

**D) Today I want to focus on two things about this day - Symbolic -**

**E) Today we are going to talk about the **Choice** of a Donkey and the **Cleansing** of the Temple**

**1) Two things that have great application to our lives**

**Note: This is the only time in the ministry of Jesus where he orchestrated an event where he was going to receive public praise.**

**A) All the other occasions where the people tried to exalt him - tried to make him King -**

**B) Jesus would remove himself**

**C) But on this day he sets the whole thing up - he is going to ride into Jerusalem as a King!!**

**For this Triumphal entry into Jerusalem -**

**A) He chooses to ride in NOT on the back of a White Stallion like a Roman General**

**B) He chooses to ride in on the back of a Donkey - fulfilling the prophecy of Zachariah 9 - Note V. 5 **Behold Your king would come to you lowly -****

**C) Jesus was fulfilling OT prophecy -**

1) and listen the fact that Jesus fulfilled all the OT prophecies concerning first coming

**D) Means we can trust that he is going to also fulfill all the OT prophecies concerning HIS 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming -**

**So over 2,000 years ago Jesus was fulfilling the Prophecy written in Zechariah 9:9 **Your King would come lowly..... donkey****

**A) All the In other words in Humility!**

**B) But Jesus didn't just chose the Donkey to fulfill prophecy - **or to illustrate his Humility****

**C) He also choose a Donkey because - **Donkeys are good pictures of us** - Loyal, relational, emotional**

**1) Intelligent / **Fighters** - horses flee - donkeys fight/ Donkeys can be very territorial - also stubborn**

**D) In fact if you trace the mention of Donkeys in the OT -**

1) it paints an interesting picture of us apart from Christ.

## Examples

A) Genesis 22:3 **We read that Abraham rose up early and saddled his donkey...**

B) There is Genesis 22:3 the Donkey is seen as lacking liberty - He is saddled -

1) he is not free - controlled by another

C) That was us prior to Christ - we were not free - we were controlled by our flesh -

1) controlled by sin/ shame - bondage

D) Then in Genesis 22:5 **Abraham said to his young men, stay here with the Donkey, while my son and I go yonder to worship.**

Here we see the Donkey being excluded from worship -

A) When we were in our Sin - we were unable to worship God

Psalm 24:3-4

3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

B) Our sin separated us from the life of God

C) **Jesus is the only one who can cleanse our hands and purify our hearts!**

Then in Deuteronomy 22:10 **"You shall NOT plow with an ox and a donkey together."**

A) The Donkey was also kept from service and be used.

B) 1 Samuel 9:3 We read about the Donkeys of Kish - Saul's father being lost and needing to be found.

C) That is how the Bible describes us prior to coming to Christ - we were lost in our trespasses and sin

D) Then in Jeremiah 22:19 we read of Donkey's being buried outside the Holy city of Jerusalem -

E) That was our place too - Kept outside of the Holy City of God.

So it is not surprising that Jesus would use the donkey

A) Because it so perfectly represents us - Apart from Christ.

B) But here is what I want you to notice about the choice of the Donkey

C) This Donkey would be the Chosen vessel, the chosen instrument upon which Jesus would receive public praise and glory

D) So too when Jesus gets a hold of a life- that life can become a vessel and an instrument

1) through which God receives glory

But Before the Donkey could be used on Palm Sunday it had to first be:

A) #1 It had to be found: - "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied

B) The Disciples didn't know where the Donkey was - but Jesus did - he tells them exactly where to find it

C) Many of us were hiding from God - like Adam and Eve - Sin/ Shame - he knew where they were

D) Or we were running from God - like Jonah - on the boat - God knew where he was

1) Prepared a fish to swallow him

E) Jesus goes to great lengths to find us

Before the Donkey could be used it had to first be: #2 It has to be redeemed

A) Note Jesus in coming to Jerusalem at this time of the year and this week - on purpose - Passover

B) Passover commemorated - Passover - The Angel of death - Passover the land -

1) the first born of the houses would be killed - Unless the house was marked by the blood of the lamb

C) For 1,000's of years the Jewish people celebrated Passover -

The Passover lamb was a picture of Jesus - He would be the final Passover lamb - His blood shed

A) John the Baptist - Behold the lamb..... world

B) But in Exodus 13 we have an interesting verse related to this Passover celebration -

1)The blood of a lamb was shed to protect the first born in the house of the people of Israel

**C)But in Exodus 13:13 The Lord also said this:  
Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb.**

**D)Of all the animals the Lord could have chosen - He singles out the donkey**

**1)as the one in need redemption - why?**

**E)The Donkey the beast of burden is a great picture of us**

**Just like the Donkey needed to be redeemed so do we.**

**A)Jesus picks the donkey to fulfill this picture**

**B)Jesus said this about himself, He came not to be served, but to serve and give his life a ransom for many!!!**

**C)He came to Redeem lost man - who was bound and burdened by sin and shame.**

**Before the Donkey could be used it had to first be:  
#3 It had to be loosed - Loose it**

**A)Lazarus - Loose him - little by little the grave clothes came off**

**B)That is what Jesus is seeking to do in our lives - Loose us - Little by little the flesh comes off**

**1)Little by little we are being transformed**

**C)The grave clothes are coming off - being replaced by the grace clothes**

**1)His righteousness - his peace - his**

**D)Be who we are in Christ - not who you were in the flesh**

**Before the Donkey could be used it had to first be:**

**#1 Found**

**#2 Redeemed**

**#3 Loosed**

**Once it was Found, redeemed and loosed -**

**A)It was then rewarded as the vessel to which Jesus would be brought praise**

**7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road;**

**others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!”**

**The Donkey becomes the vessel upon which -**

**A) Jesus would receive his highest degree of public praise in his earthly ministry**

**B)You might feel like a Donkey today - God could never love you or use you.**

**1)Too sinful - too stubborn**

**C)Listen you are exactly the type of person God loves to work in and work through**

**Note the phrase - If anyone asks tell them the master has need of it!**

**A)He picks the lowly things - odd things - cracked pots**

**26 Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. 27 Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—to bring to nothing what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, 29 so that no one may boast in his presence.....as it is written: **Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:26-29****

**C)God doesn't need us but he chooses to bless us by allowing us to be involved in what he is doing in the world.**

**For such a time as this:**

**A)Jesus didn't need the Donkey - Jesus walked through that gate - many times before -**

**B)But on this day - he chose to use a Donkey to express this moment of praise and gratitude**

**C)This generation: Work through us!!!**

**So we have the choice of the donkey - now let's consider the cleansing of the temple.**

**A)When Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem -**

**B)He doesn't head for the Palace or even the Antonio Fortress - He goes to the temple of the Jews**

12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

**Three parts to the temple Courtyard – Closets to the Temple itself Court of the Jews – MEN ONLY**

**A)After that – court of women - then finally the court of the Gentiles**

**B)First court you would pass through –first impression –**

**1)and the closets a gentile could get to the temple.**

**C)The religious leaders set up – BAZAAR -**

**1)A money exchange - Only Shekels – high exchange rate – rip off**

**D)Lamb inspections – Another rip off –**

**1)A lamb without blemish – Most people would have their home town priest inspect before they left.....**

**The whole set up was one that took advantage of people and was RUN by the religious leaders.**

**A)When Jesus saw it – His heart was greatly grieved.**

**B)That which was supposed to be a place for seeking God was turned into a den of thieves**

**Now there were Two things in Jesus' ministry that upset Him –**

**1st - God is being misrepresented and dishonored**

**A)The 2nd - Is when His people are being ripped off and having heavy burdens thrown on them!**

**B)Both were happening here by the religious leaders**

**1)SO Jesus goes in and starts turning over tables Driving people out –**

**C)And- Get this –no one tries to stop him – Not the religious leaders –**

**1)not the TEMPLE GUARDS**

**D)It was a Show of his Kingly authority – everyone just watched.**

**So when the King comes to town – His first stop is the Temple – Cleansing time. –**

**A)Watch what happens once the temple was cleansed**

14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant 16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?"

And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

17 Then He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and He lodged there.

**B)When the temple gets clean – God's power is released!!! – Always the way that it is**

**We are a temple of God – This Church family – this place where we gather**

**A)This event gives us tremendous insight in what the Church is to be. – 3 things**

**#1 A place of prayer:** 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

**A)A place for seeking God – drawing near to God – getting real with God pouring out our hearts to God**

**B)A Place where everything is moving us in that direction – Jesus is the answer**

**C)A place for getting real with God pouring out our hearts to God**

**D)If you can't be REAL here – You can't be real anywhere.**

**#2 A place of healing** 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

**A)The blind and the lame came to Jesus in the temple and He healed them.**

**B)So, too, we who have been spiritually blinded and we who are lame-brained**

1) should be able to come into this place and hear the Word, study the Scriptures, receive help and healing.

**C) This is to be a place of transformation – God’s power being released through His Word –**

**D) God moving on hearts – transformation happening –**

**E) Spiritual needs but also – Physical ones**

**1) Elders anoint with oil – laying on of hands**

**#3 A place where praise is expressed:** the children crying out in the temple and saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant 16 and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants **You have perfected praise’?**”

**Not Just the church but our lives!**

**A) We are the temple of the Holy Spirit - Do We need cleansing? Do we have unconfessed sin?**

**B) Our hearts can be a place where **Communion with God happens !!!****

**C) Where **Transformation** can happen**

**D) Where **Healing** can take place**

**E) Where **Praise** is released!!!!**