

Sermon Luke 19:28-40

SUBJECT: Ride Your Donkey

Perhaps it is not unlike how the people of Jerusalem felt. Here was Jesus who claimed to be the Messiah.

We live in an age of challenged perspectives and expectations

After years of Roman occupation, the people long for change. And while for much of Jesus ministry he has exercised his power on the margins of society; amongst the poor, the outcast, the leper, the sinner; now he enters the political centre with an entry that will not go unnoticed.

Indeed, Jesus entry is Provocative.

- **A king rides into Jerusalem on a donkey**
- **What kind of king is this?**

Our Text

In today's story, the people unleash *in praise and thanksgiving* for change; in this case, a change of kingship

Luke's gospel is very clear in making the point;

- **Jesus is coming as a king who will lay claim on Jerusalem.**
- **He enters from the Main Gate with a Procession welcoming him as the new king.**
- **Clothes and palm branches are waved. And he rides into the city like a conquering king, his disciples crying out;**

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Was He Grand Standing? *STANDING*

ANTICIPATION

He was the Son of God, the one who would Redeem the people from the bondage of Rome, and so when he arrived in Jerusalem they greet him with the fan fair reserved for a Conquering king.

Perhaps not unlike in those old films with tanks rolling in and scores of people throwing flowers, opening wine bottles, children cheering as they ride a top tanks.

They have been saved by the great armies of the west.

And yet, as the people wave their branches in Jerusalem

Did they realize that Jesus is not riding in on a weapon of war, a mighty war steed, ... but instead he comes on a donkey.

- ✓ And he has no sword, no armour, and certainly no mighty army behind him.
- ✓ How strange indeed is the Plan of God for the Salvation of the World ... how mysterious indeed is the mind of God.
- ✓ Instead of force, order and control; instead of sending an army of angel's to destroy the oppressors and send them into a fiery hell—
- ✓ God sends his son on a donkey, and Jesus, knowing the mind of God follows out of obedience, but more so, out of love ... all the way to the cross.
- ✓ This is the deep mystery of Christian faith, and it's deepest truth. That this Jesus who had the power of God did not use it in the way that seems right to the world
- ✓ Instead he became as a slave to us ... washed our feet ... washed us in love ... washed away on the cross our destructive ways on the cross ... reconciling us with God on what has become for us the tree of life.

For you see, this conqueror, who rides on a donkey ... has indeed come to rule the world.

- We rule from the places of power,
- Behind desks with battle plans, and missile silos and armies ready to destroy or subjugate our enemies.

This Lord, rules from a cross, with the stories of faith as his plan, and a heart ready for the challenge of loving his enemies.

Yet, there is one thing our Lord shares with the world.

He indeed does have an army!

Yet this one is made up of foolish old and young men

- Silly women, and mixed up children ... all sorts of odd ducks, rejects, and people misguided enough to have heard what God is up to
- Crazy enough to waste time in silence listening for a voice to tell them that they should instead of hoarding their lives, they should give them away.
- Naive enough, to instead of killing one's enemies, to do what Jesus did and offer good in the face of evil, even unto death.
- Such is the rag tag army of God who by grace through faith is willing to kneel before the throne of this victorious crucified God
- People, who touched by his forgiving, healing, and reconciling love confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of the Father.
- Since if the ruler of the universe can fulfill mission riding on a borrowed young donkey, and
- If the ruler of the universe in giving up all on the cross, giving up himself in place of all of us;
- This one who rules from a cross, and rises from an empty tomb, leaving behind even his burial shroud.
- If this is how the glory of God expresses itself

Donkeys - World View

- Stubborn
- Symbol of ignorance
- Breast of Burden

Yet God provides us donkeys

What Donkey Do You Ride the Most?

- Ashley Smith - Briant Nicholas Safety) (Core Belief)
- Mark McQuire- Baseball hits to (fame & fortune) (Enhancement) (Steroid)
- President Bush's donkey - Grand Stand Plane ride to declare Iraq victory

Donkey Becomes a MASK

Let's don't mix up our Horse from a Donkey.

God saw fit the give the DONKEY Redemptive Assignments

- I. God has made plans to provide us with a DONKEY DONKEYS- There are many choices -
- II. Core Belief System Deep Faith - I Believe

Roll Call

Mahatma Ghandi - "My life is my message" Freedom of India

Nelson Mandela - South Africa

M. L. King, Jr.

African Americans - DONKEY

The spirituals provided the channel for the deep inner faith : emotional brokenness and hopefulness to confidence, wholeness.

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone

I long ways from home, a long ways from home.

- I. There is a Balm in Gilead
- II. Nobody Knows the Trouble I See
- III. Fannie Lou Hammer -

I believe for every drop of rain that falls, a flower grows,
I believe that somewhere in the darkest night, a candle glows.
I believe for everyone who goes astray, someone will come to show the way.

I believe, I believe

I believe above the storm, the smallest pray'r will still be heard.
I believe that someone in the great somewhere hears every word.
Every time I hear a newborn baby cry, or touch a leaf or see the sky,

Then I know why I believe!

Ride Your Donkey thru the Storm

When you walk through a storm,
 Hold your head up high,
 And don't be afraid of the dark,
 At the end of the storm is a golden sky,
 And the sweet silver song of a lark.
Walk on through the wind,
 Walk on through the rain.
 Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown,
 Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart,
 And you'll never walk alone.
 You'll never walk alone.

You may build great cathedrals large or small,
 You can build skyscrapers grand and tall,
 You may conquer all the failures of the past,
 But only what you do for Christ will last.
 You may seek earthly power and fame,
 The world might be impressed by your great name,
 Soon the glories of this life will all be past,
 But only what you do for Christ will last.

Tho' your armies may control each hemisphere,
 And your orbits out in space cause men to cheer,
 Your scientific knowledge may be vast,
 But only what you do for Christ will last.
 Tho' your songs and prayers are heard and praised by men,

They've no meaning unless you've been born again,
Sinner heed these words, don't let this harvest past,
 For only what you do for Christ will last.

Illustrate

Only what you do for Christ will
 Ride On King Jesus - no man can hinder me