

The Lord Needs It

Luke 19:28-40

I found this version of our scripture on the internet at <http://www.kidssundayschool.com/939/preschool/a-young-boys-donkey.php>. It is called A YOUNG BOY'S DONKEY.

A long time ago, there was a young boy who loved horses. He begged his father to buy him one all the time. He even saved up some of his own money to buy his very own horse.

“Papa,” he said one day. “Look, I have money now to buy my horse.”

His father looked at the boy, then at the money, and said, “Son, you did a good job saving your money, but I’m afraid that won’t be nearly enough to buy a real horse.”

”Okay,” the boy said, “I’ll keep on saving. Someday I’ll have enough. I want to buy a horse like the Roman soldiers ride.”

What the young boy did not know was that his father was planning to buy him a horse this very day for his birthday. Later that morning, his father went to the only stable in town to find the perfect horse for his son.

When he arrived, he found a young colt, just the right size. “How much for this young colt?” he asked the owner.

”Oh no,” the owner replied. “That colt is already sold and we don’t have any more horses for sale. The Roman soldiers came yesterday and bought all I had. Well, except for that little donkey sleeping over there in the corner.”

”My son will be so disappointed,” said the boy’s father. “I was planning to give him a horse for a birthday gift. How much do you want for the donkey?”

”The donkey belongs to my son,” the owner replied. “He has never been ridden but he is very gentle and well behaved. My son is away working for the Roman governor and can’t take care of him anymore, so you can have him if you promise to give him a good home.”

“Oh that would be wonderful!” said the boy’s father. “I’m sure my son will love to have his very own little donkey.”

The donkey was indeed very small, so the boy’s father decided to walk him back home. Besides, he wanted his son to have the first ride. When he arrived, he proudly presented the little donkey to his son and explained how he once belonged to the stable owner’s son.

The young boy upon seeing the donkey started crying. “It’s not a horse father. How can I become a respected rider with a little donkey? Famous people all ride horses.” Then he walked away, looking very sad.

The boy’s father went up to the donkey, and spoke gently to him. “You may be small and have no experience, but you seem gentle, and friendly, and....oh well, maybe someday my son will accept you.” Then he tied the little donkey to a tree. Moments later, two men came up to him. They pointed to the little donkey and asked the boy’s father for a special favor. They wanted to borrow the donkey.

A few hours passed when suddenly his son came running up to the house with his friends. “Father, come with us!” the boy shouted. “The King is here! Everyone is along the roadside waiting for Him.”

“What do you mean, "The King"?"

“Jesus, 'The King,' remember? He is at the city gate and everyone is rejoicing. Let’s go and see Him!”

They all ran together down to the roadside. When they got there, they found everyone singing praises and waving palm branches. They could hear the people shouting, “Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

The young boy grabbed his father’s hand and said, “Father, look! Jesus is almost here!”

“My son, look closely!” said his father with excitement. “Jesus is riding on a little donkey!”

“Yes father,” the boy said sobbing with joy. “The King is riding on my magnificent donkey.”

Have you ever wondered if you matter in the great scheme of the kingdom of God...whether what you say and do are important?

In our scripture Jesus had concluded his journey to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27) and was prepared to enter the city. Jesus told two of his disciples to enter a nearby village, look for a colt that has never been ridden, and bring it to him. If asked what they are doing, the disciples are to say only, "The Lord needs it" (vv. 29-32). The disciples did as they were commanded, and events unfolded exactly as Jesus said they would. After the disciples return with the colt, they place cloaks and blankets on it, and Jesus rode into Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 which said: "Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The great multitude along the road into Jerusalem declared Jesus to be the one who comes in the name of the Lord and who represents heaven's peace and glory. They sang: "Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" They failed to recognize the price of true peace, "the things that make for peace!" (v. 42); that multitude sang of peace in heaven without recognizing that Jesus was not an example of some larger notion of peace. He was their peace. Indeed he is the peace of the world—not any peace, but the peace that only he can give—and that peace cannot and could not be found apart from the journey that led him Golgotha, both for him and for those that would be his disciples.

When Pharisees asked Jesus to silence the crowd, Jesus quoted Habakkuk 2:11: "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Jesus came into Jerusalem that day with the expressed purpose of becoming "the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 5:9-10). He came into Jerusalem, riding a donkey, the symbol that he was the Messiah, a gesture that was understood by the crowd that day; just as Paul later wrote to Timothy that Jesus is "the blessed and only sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15). **George W. Stroup**

In a world on turmoil Jesus came to bring us peace. Since the earliest days of the church, Christians were shaped by a simple ritual. The worship leader proclaimed the blessing, "The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Everybody else was invited to respond, "And also with you." This is the echo that we still create every Sunday. Somebody says it to us, and we say it right back. According to Luke's text, this practice dates back at least as far as the first Palm Sunday.

When Jesus was born, the Gospel writer tells us that angels appeared to sing, "Peace on earth" ([Luke 2:14](#)). As Jesus rode his colt toward Jerusalem, the people looked to the sky and sang, "Peace in heaven." Heaven sang of peace on earth. Earth echoed back, "Peace in heaven." As the church gathers this day, we are caught in the crossfire of blessings. Jesus approached Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, from the spot where tradition held that the Messiah would appear. A gathering of his followers surround him, praising God with exuberant voices. They sing [Psalm 118](#) as their song of deliverance, affirming that God will rescue God's people.

Like many peace songs, the psalm provoked anxiety. Some Pharisees wanted the crowd to hush. We do not know their reasons. Perhaps they thought the moment was too political and the empire would retaliate. Or they may have disagreed with the inference that Jesus was the Messiah. We cannot say for sure. However the Pharisees could not restrain the crowd. They were too excited and sang joyful hosannas. Jesus, as the ruler of the universe, chose to ride a borrowed colt. The contrast was clear in the destination, as the city that welcomed him would later scream for his blood. For that Sunday, at least, the greatest hopes for peace were hidden from those who wished for it.

We have our own contradictions, of course. Someone tells us the best way to create peace is by initiating a war. The strong are strengthened by holding off the

weak. Parents confront fear by buying a handgun for the dresser drawer. Schools encourage competition over cooperation. Governments and businesses seek to win at all costs, even if it bankrupts them. Jesus rides his lowly farm animal through all of it.

What are the things that make for peace? What are the things "hidden from our eyes?" We recognize that we do not know the answer. We do know that Jesus said from the cross, "Forgive them, Father, for they *do not know* what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). **William G. Carter**

A story is told of a celebration, with food and dancing. All the villagers were asked to bring a container of juice for the celebration libations. When mixed together it would be a delightful punch for everyone to enjoy. However, a person decided to only bring water rather than juice believing that the difference would not be noticed since everyone else would follow instructions. However, when the drink was served, everyone tasted only water, because each had brought water thinking their contribution would not be missed.

It is easy for us to criticize others, but what has God called each of us to do? Are we the multitude singing praises without understanding that Jesus will have to sacrifice his life to give us peace? Are we the Pharisees telling others to be quiet? Are we the donkey? Whoever we are, the Lord needs us to do our part in the drama of salvation! Your role is important!

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