

### **Zechariah 9:9**

**9** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.<sup>1</sup>

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

**1** As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,

**2** saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

**3** If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

**4** This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

**5** "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

**6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

**7** They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

**8** A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

**9** The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

**10** When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

**11** The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.biblestudytools.com/my-bible/#/passage/niv/zechariah/9/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.biblestudytools.com/my-bible/#/passage/niv/matthew/21/>

Good Morning First Baptist Members and Friends! We are so glad that you are here in the Lord's House this morning. Glad that you came to support our Kingdom Seekers as they lead worship. Glad that you came to praise God this morning. Glad that the lights are still on and the doors are still open on the corner of Westwood and Orchard. If you are glad, gratified and grateful then you ought to want to praise God this morning. Praise Him for young people who will keep the doors open after you and I are gone. Praise Him that we live in a land where you are free to praise God as you wish. Praise Him for the blessings that allow us to stay open when others are closing their doors. Somebody, ought to praise Him right now.

The authors of the David C. Cook Commentary tell us that the aim of this week's lesson is remind us to praise Jesus by our words and by our actions. Now I don't know why we would need to be reminded to praise the One who was born to die in order that we would be restored to the Father. I don't know why we need to be reminded to praise the One (who)" ... came from heaven to earth, to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky"<sup>3</sup>

I would think that if we knew who Jesus was and is we would just want to praise Him anyhow.

The other challenge that this week's commentary presents is that they are giving us the story of Palm Sunday – three weeks before Palm Sunday. Now, I must admit that I spend some time trying to figure out why and also asking God to show me what I am to preach on Palm Sunday. But as I wait for answers and clarity and just in case the Lord comes before we gather again I decided that maybe I had better preach the sermon that I hear in my head, guided by the commentary and the writings of Royce Hendry.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup><http://artists.letssingit.com/donnie-mcclurkin-lyrics-lord-i-lift-your-name-on-high-wlhn9rs#axzz2xOuG0dTi>

I would imagine that we have each heard a Palm Sunday sermon where the focus was on the crowd and the words they shouted; or perhaps on the two disciples who followed Jesus instructions; or maybe on Jesus Himself as He rode into Jerusalem for the beginning of the last week of His life. But today I want to draw your focus to the female donkey and her colt. I wish to raise and answer the question:

### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

#### SHALL WE PRAY?

Father God, we come this morning desiring to hear a Word from heaven. A Word that will help us to be more like Jesus; a Word that will help us when temptations come; a Word that will help us when we feel like giving up. Father, I ask that you send that Word this morning. Allow me to be your Servant and the bearer of the Word. Move me out of the way, in order that your sons and daughters might hear from you. In the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

When you think of donkeys I would imagine that you think of a four footed creature, with big floppy ears and a long tail; that is known to be stubborn, kick people and hard to train. But did you know that donkeys are more intelligent than horses, they will guard other animals on a farm and are good companions for children. The donkey can pull twice its weight on level ground.<sup>5</sup> The domesticated animal that we know is a descendent of the wild donkeys found in North Africa between the Mediterranean coast and the Sahara Desert to the south of the Red Sea.<sup>6</sup> So the animal rode by Jesus into Jerusalem had been used for thousands of years before Christ for meat, milk and work. So...

### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

If we are going to learn from a donkey we must understand a few things about donkeys.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/mvp-royce-hendry-sermon-on-easter-palm-sunday-43160.asp?Page=3>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly\\_fs/1.21412!/fileManager/donkey%20fact%20sheet.pdf](http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.21412!/fileManager/donkey%20fact%20sheet.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/about-donkeys>

There are at least ten different breeds of donkeys. The most common color is grey and the least common color is white, but some are brown, or black or mixed. Some have easily managed hair and others have thick, matted, tangled hair. Not only do they look different, but also they have different talents and skills yet they are all still donkeys. This makes me think of these scriptures:

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>7</sup>*

*<sup>27</sup>for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup>*

#### **WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

**Like donkeys we look different and have different skills and talents, but we are all one in Christ and have a purpose to serve God and tell others about Him.**

Donkeys are not easily frightened. They tend to wait to identify the threat before acting. Some might call it stubborn or foolish, but others call it wise. They only attack when physically threaten or abused. They will protect others who are not donkeys. I thought of these instructions:

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, (<sup>20</sup>because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires).<sup>9</sup>*

*<sup>7</sup>For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.<sup>10</sup>*

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4&version=NIV>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3&version=NIV>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james+1%3A19&version=NIV;KJV>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Timothy%201&version=NIV;KJV>

## **WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

**God expects us not to be afraid, but to stand firm as we wait for His return.**

Now, let us consider the story before us and ask the question again:

### **WHAT CAN I LEARN FROM A DONKEY?**

*v. 2... "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her."*

**We must be in a place where God may use us.**

*v .2 .... "Untie them and bring them to me."*

**We must be willing to be untied from the things that bind us. God can and will use us anywhere, but He cannot use us when we are tied up with our stuff – alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex, talking trash and living with trash**

- 6** The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.  
**7** They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

**When must be humble enough to carry Jesus even to places where we might be afraid to go.**

**We must be obedient and go, prepared to serve.**

**When God moves us from one place to the next we must be willing to go.**

**Mothers ought to hang out with their children sometime and go to the new places their children are going.**

**My challenge to you this week is to give God 30 minutes and ask Him to show you WHAT YOU NEED TO LEARN FROM A DONKEY.**