

The Kingdom & The Donkey

Matthew 21 : 1 - 11



For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his *kingdom* and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

~ Matthew 6 : 32 - 34 ~

And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the *kingdom* of God has come upon you.

- Matthew 12 : 27 - 28 -

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the **kingdom** of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the **kingdom** of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

~ Matthew 19 : 23 - 25 ~

Palm Sunday

- ❖ Jesus had 'arrived' to save the people from their sins
- ❖ Jesus presented himself officially as the Messiah
- ❖ Palm branches used to signify liberation
- ❖ Shouts of 'Hosanna' conveyed the cry of salvation

The Donkey

- ❖ Used as a working animal for about 5000 years - cheapest form of agricultural power
- ❖ Associated with the poor
- ❖ Range in size from height of 31 to 63 inches depending on breed, but generally smaller than horses
- ❖ About 41 million donkeys worldwide, with China having the most at about 11 million
- ❖ Foal - newborn of donkey
- ❖ Colt - male newborn of donkey

The Donkey in the Bible

- ❖ 142 references in the NIV
- ❖ In the Old Testament, donkeys were a measure of wealth
- ❖ The Bible records an episode between Balaam & his talking donkey in Numbers 22.
- ❖ Samson used the jawbone of a donkey to kill 'a thousand men'
- ❖ Only 1 biblical record of Jesus riding an animal - a donkey

Pride .vs. Humility

	Pride	Humility
Being chosen	I'm chosen because of my skills/abilities	I'm chosen because He has called me
Being prepared	My potential must be so high, I'm being groomed for greater things	I need equipping & preparation so as to serve Him more effectively
Being lauded	I've done such a great job & deserve the recognition	To God be the glory, great things He has done

Jesus Riding a Donkey is about...

- ❖ Humility .vs. Pride
- ❖ Gentleness .vs. Forcefulness
- ❖ What is despised by man .vs. what is valued by God

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.”

~ Mark 12 : 41 - 43 ~

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you are called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are.

~ 2 Corinthians 1 : 26 - 28 ~

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

- Philippians 2 : 5 - 8 -