

## **For Such a Time As This – Bosswomen of the Bible – The Boss Lady Donkey**

Isaiah 62:11; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-17

While it is officially April and no longer Women's Herstory Month, we are carrying over our theme For Such a Time as This – Bosswomen of the Bible. On this Palm Sunday we look at yet another overlooked female in the Bible.

### **Exegesis –**

- No doubt there were women throughout Palm Sunday—mother of James & John; female apostles, women who witness Jesus' entrance, girls near the temple cheering for him
- Other than Jesus everyone is unnamed but at the beginning he specifically asks for a mama donkey and her foal.
- Like too many women who play a central role in the scriptures, they are unnamed, noticed only for their servant role.
- Jesus chooses them to fulfill the prophecy laid out in Isaiah 62:11 and Zechariah 9:9 combined to form Matthew 21:5 – the donkey is the key sign of his kingship

### **What Can We Learn from the Mama Donkey –**

1. She was available – When the moment came she was ready and waiting. How many of us are so busy doing too much that we would miss the moment when Jesus calls on us to play a special role.
2. She was not flashy but she was solid – A horse would have been the sign of might and power, but the donkey got it done. The horse was regal but the donkey was reliable. She provided strength and support for everyday folks and she lifts Jesus up as a man of the people
3. She took the weight but she also brought along the next generation – Even as she is in her big moment, she brings her baby along. Jesus is riding the mama, but her child receives the anointing of being cloaked because they walk alongside their mother. We too are called to lift as we climb by opening doors and passing on anointing to others.

We all know where the story is going. The people will cheer on Sunday and jeer on Thursday, Jesus is on his way to getting cancelled in the span of a few days. But in this moment, this mama donkey lifts Jesus up and carries him to a place of honor. Whatever everyone else does she places her role with honor. If we are honest, we like most humans are probably like the folks in the crowd, including the disciples who will get fickle in the end too. But oh that we can learn from our 4 legged boss lady donkey mama in her strength and her faithfulness.

### **Reflections Questions**

1. As our Lenten season comes to a close, are you ready to act on what God is calling you to? What other activities might distract you from being ready to answer God's call?
2. Are you flashy or solid? Have you invested time in how you look on the outside or how strong you are inside? How can you use this last week of Lent to double down on the inner strength required to be part of God's transformative plan?
3. Even as God is moving in your life, who are you bringing along? How can you make time and space for the person/ people that God is calling you to support? How might you connect with those folks in this final week of Lent?