

SUNDAY

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First
BAPTIST CHURCH

A DONKEY'S TALE

“ Then the Lord gave the donkey the ability to speak. ‘What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?’ it asked Balaam. ‘You have made me look like a fool!’ Balaam shouted. ‘If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!’ ‘But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life,’ the donkey answered. ‘Have I ever done anything like this before?’ ‘No,’ Balaam admitted. Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him.”

NUMBERS 22:28-31 (NLT)

Jesus had _____ the donkey.

“ As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. ‘Go into the village over there,’ he said. ‘As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will immediately let you take them.’

This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said,
‘Tell the people of Israel,
Look, your King is coming to you.
He is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.’”

MATTHEW 21:1-5 (NLT)

“ Rejoice, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.”

ZECHARIAH 9:9 (NLT)

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”

JEREMIAH 29:11 (NLT)

The donkey was _____ .

“ The two disciples did as Jesus commanded. They brought the donkey and the colt to him and threw their garments over the colt, and he sat on it.”

MATTHEW 21:6-7 (NLT)

“ You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”

JOHN 15:16 (NLT)

The donkey's _____ was to make Jesus _____.

“ Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, ‘Praise God for the Son of David!’

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Praise God in highest heaven!’

The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. ‘Who is this?’ they asked.

And the crowds replied, ‘It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”

MATTHEW 21:7-11 (NLT)

THE QUESTION IS:

Are you willing to make an _____ of yourself?

WHAT?

The crowd went from shouting _____ to shouting _____.

“ Pilate responded, ‘Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?’

They shouted back, ‘Crucify him!’

‘Why?’ Pilate demanded. ‘What crime has he committed?’

But the mob roared even louder, ‘Crucify him!’”

MATTHEW 27:22-23 (NLT)

“ For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant between God and his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.’ For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.”

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- 1- If you had a time machine that could only be used once, what point in the future or past would you go to? Why?
- 2- Read Matthew 21:1-3. If you were one of the disciples, how would react to this request? Have you ever felt like Jesus was calling you to obey a strange request? How did you respond?
- 3- Read Matthew 21:6. God had a plan for this Donkey 500 years in advance. How have you seen God place and prepare you for His plans?
How can you be obedient and step into those plans?
- 4- Read Matthew 21:7-11 When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the crowd treated him as a King. What do you think the crowd expected of him?
- 5- However, Jesus rode a donkey, a symbol of humility and peace, implying Jesus wasn’t coming for political or military conquest. Jesus didn’t meet the expectations of many of these people.
What are some unrealistic expectations we sometimes have of God?
What can we do to keep our expectations of God rooted in truth?
- 6- By the end of the week the same crowd would be chanting Crucify him! How do we sometimes proclaim Hosanna, and turn around and shout Crucify soon after?

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