

Encounter Church

Sunday August 25, 2024

Anchor Down Purpose

INTRODUCTION: We've been in this series talking about the anchors that we can put down to keep us from drifting during the storm.

Colossians 2:6-7- "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

Thus far we've let down the anchors of hope, praise and courage! Today we're going to let down the final anchor in this series. The ANCHOR OF PURPOSE!

Luke 19:29-31—" As he came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

IN OTHER WORDS JESUS IS SAYING, "I HAVE A PURPOSE FOR THAT COLT!"

Jesus instructs two unnamed disciples to go into the village ahead and look for a colt, a donkey!

Who were these two disciples and why did they go unnamed?

Usually when disciples do something significant they are mentioned by name!

It seems that Luke considers they're assignment insignificant!

I wonder what the disciples were saying between themselves?

"Jesus is always sending us on these kind of missions. Go for this go for that! Go get some bread and go get some fish to feed all these people."

"Remember that time He turned the water into wine? We had to go get those heavy pots and fill them with water!"

Why does Jesus get to do all the exciting work while we get the dirty work! Why can't we be like Peter and do some cool stuff like walk on water?

Little did they know that they're assignment was critical to the events of that day and the upcoming week!

They were sent to retrieve a donkey. The donkey that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem, on the way to His death, death on a cross!

YES A DONKEY! One that had never been ridden! It was tied up and waiting for Jesus to ride!

THIS DONKEY WAS BORN FOR JESUS WONDERFUL WORK! THIS DONKEY HAD A PURPOSE!

AS DID THE TWO DISCIPLES THAT FOUND HIM!

Zechariah 9:9 - "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."

The prophecy given by Zechariah had now been fulfilled some 5 centuries later and the two disciples and a donkey were key to seeing the prophecy fulfilled!

FIRST TRUTH:

1. You were born with a purpose.

Psalms 139:13-16 - "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

YOU WERE BORN WITH A PURPOSE!

Galatians 1:15-16 - "But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles."

Life isn't about finding yourself, it's about discovering who God created you to be and fulfilling that purpose!

WHY WAS JESUS RIDING A DONKEY INTO JERUSALEM THAT DAY? BECAUSE HE WAS FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS LIFE!!!

YOU WERE BORN WITH A PURPOSE! NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE STORM, HOW STORNG THE WINDS ARE BLOWING, YOU HAVE A PURPOSE.

THROW OUT THE ANCHOR OF PURPOSE!

SECOND TRUTH:

2. You need to be untied.

You need to be untied to fulfill your purpose! The donkey needed to be untied because Jesus had a purpose for him!

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BE UNTIED FROM?

We are often tied, aren't we? We are tied down by many things! By guilt, anxiety, concerns! We are tied down by sin.

We are tied down by unforgiveness. We are tied down by the past!

We are tied down by addictions. We are tied down by weights.

We need to be free to experience Jesus in our lives!

Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne."

We cannot fully commit to God when we are tied!

We must surrender our weights and burdens to God, much like the owner who surrendered the donkey to the disciples!

Matthew 11:28-29 - "Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

What is it that needs to be untied in your life so you can put down the Anchor of Purpose?

THIRD TRUTH

3. When you untie you unite.

When the donkey was untied he could unite with Jesus and fulfill his purpose that he was created for!

When you untie yourself, you unite with Christ who has a purpose and is the purpose giver!

Ephesians 1:11- "Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart. '

Unite- to become ONE!

Philippians 3:8,9 - "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him....."

CONCLUSION:

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

In the storms of life you can have hope and lift up your voice in praise and have courage and move forward with purpose!

