

## Six Lessons from a Donkey

*Matthew 21:1-11*

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Introduction: We saw this morning the account of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, in the context of two other prophecies (Zechariah 9:9 > His purpose, & Psalm 118:25-26 > His praise). We noted the typical responses to the coming of Christ: those who reject Him eternally, those who recognize Him superficially, & those who receive Him personally. We asked the question: Are you ready for the coming of the King? Tonight I ask: Are you willing to be used by the King? Consider six lessons from a donkey, specifically lessons for the believer. Note with me the prophecy concerning the donkey, the provision of the donkey, & the portrayal by the donkey. We will see 6 lessons here that ought to exhort, edify, & encourage us as believers in our service for the Lord.

### I. The **prophecy** concerning the donkey (see :4-5)

#### A. The fulfillment of the Scriptures

1. The prophecy of Zechariah - 9:9, "...*behold, thy king cometh unto thee: He is just, & having salvation, lowly, & riding upon an ass, & upon a colt the foal of an ass.*"
2. The pronouncement of Christ- Matthew 5:18, "*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven & earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*"

**Lesson #1** > God always keeps His promises. Lamentations 3:22-23, "*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.*" (see also Joshua 23:14 & Hebrews 13:5-6)

#### B. The foreknowledge of the Savior

1. His knowledge of this Scripture - Zechariah 9:9.
2. His knowledge of all Scripture - Luke 24:27, "*And beginning at Moses & all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all things the scriptures concerning Himself.*" (see :32) What a prophetic study!

**Lesson #2** > Search the Scriptures to see the Savior. John 5:39, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: & they are they which testify of Me.*" (cf. II Cor. 3:18)

### II. The **provision** of the donkey (see :2-3)

#### A. The Lord's control of the beasts of the field:

1. The special consideration - for the Lord >
  - a. An unbroken animal, not used by anyone else.
  - b. A consecrated animal, set apart for the Lord's use.
2. The special care - for the donkey >
  - a. Mother donkey led in front of her colt, to calm the colt?
  - b. "*Muzzle not the ox...*" - see I Corinthians 9:9 (cf. Deut. 25:4 & Pro. 12:10).

Note: Christ knew beforehand the location of the animals & the disposition of the owner.

**Lesson #3** > Since God is concerned for the beasts, how much more is He concerned for you & me? Matthew 10:29-31, (:31) "*Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*" (cf. Psalm 100)

B. The Lord's command of the hearts of men:

1. Words of exhortation to the disciples > "Go into the village..." (:2).
2. Words of explanation to the owner > "The Lord hath need of them..." (:3).

Note: Consider a study of "borrowed" things: home, donkey, money, tomb, cross.

**Lesson #4** > The Lord has "need" of us. Romans 12:1-2, "...*present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world...*" Are you willing to be used? Are you surrendered to His service? What is it that you have that the Lord has need of (time, talent, treasure, tongue)?

III. The portrayal by the donkey (see :6-8)

A. The significance:

1. Why a donkey & not a horse?
  - a. Not for state (stately appearance), but for service.
  - b. Not for battle, but for burdens.
  - c. Not swift & intimidating, but slow & inviting.
2. Why the clothes on its back?
  - a. They had no saddle for the donkey.
  - b. They used their own clothes, the only thing, but the best that they had.

**Lesson #5** > We should always give Him our best. Colossians 3:23, "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, & not unto men.*" (cf. I Pet. 4:10-11; I Cor. 10:31; & Mat. 5:16)

B. The symbolism:

1. His intention > He comes in humility & peace.
  - a. This time He comes to lay down His life.
  - b. The next time He comes upon a white horse, to lay down His law (Rev. 19:11).
2. His destination > He comes, not to the palace but to the Temple.
  - a. The Cross before the Crown.
  - b. "When Christ came into Jerusalem, He did not go up to the court or the palace though He came in as a King, but into the temple; for His kingdom is spiritual & not of this world; it is in holy things that He rules, in the temple of God that He exercises authority" (M. Henry).

**Lesson #6** > Christ comes to set up His spiritual kingdom in our hearts. - cf. John 18:36 with Romans 14:17, "*For the kingdom of God is not meat & drink; but righteousness, & peace, & joy in the Holy Ghost.*" (& see 14:18)

Conclusion: What can we learn from a donkey? We have learned first that God always keeps His promises. Are you thankful for His faithfulness & desirous to be faithful to & for Him? Secondly, we have learned that we must search the Scriptures in order to see the Savior. Are you a serious student of the Word, desirous to see the Lord in its pages? We saw, thirdly, that God is not only concerned for the beasts of the field, but that He is more concerned for us, the sheep of His flock. Are you conscious of His watch-care over you? Fourthly, we learned that the Lord has need of us, that He wants to use us in His service. Are you available for the Master's use? We also noted in a fifth lesson, that we should always give Him our best. Does He receive the glory in all that you say & do? And lastly, we learned that Christ has come to set up His kingdom in our hearts. Is He ruling & reigning there, as your Savior & Lord? Are you willing tonight to learn from a donkey?