

Luke 19:28-38, "Be the Right Donkey"

- ✚ The disciples had to go find the right donkey. We are taking another look at Jesus' triumphal entry, and we usually talk about the obvious: They missed their opportunity, Jesus' sovereignty over the events, the fickleness of the crowd, the rocks that cried out and how Jesus wept over everybody getting it wrong. But there is one character in this story that got it 100% right, against his nature and against the odds; he was the only character that was fully surrendered to the Savior, the Donkey.
- ✚ The intent of this message is that you and I should be just like him, the right one for the right time, fully surrendered to the Savior. "Be the right donkey". The King James uses another word for donkey, "ass," but I'm not going to use that word because of its connotation in our culture. Nevertheless, that word does draw a play on our understanding, does it not? Either you are the right donkey, or you just remain an _____!

1. It's to be noted that the only animal in the Bible other than a sheep that is used to refer to a human being is a donkey.

- ✓ Donkeys are naturally wild, hard to tame, can be very mean and are definitely very, very stubborn. Donkeys were one of the few animals that had been redeemed and couldn't be sacrificed. Note **Exodus 13:13**, What happens if humans aren't redeemed? God chose to redeem us, **John 3:16-17** not because we were wonderful and sweet, but despite the fact that we were _____. One outstanding individual in the Old Testament whose descendants still have a bad reputation in our world is Ishmael, see what the Bible says about him in **Genesis 16:12**. He was not the right donkey! Others were the right donkeys: **Numbers 22:27-29**, Balaam was a _____, but his own donkey did everything it could to protect this foolish prophet from his own ignorance.

2. Don't be the wrong donkey, be the right one.

- ✓ Jesus directed His disciples to the right donkey; it was the right donkey, not only because Jesus picked it, but also because of how it performed. "What's the big deal? This donkey did what donkeys do?" This donkey did what trained/broken donkeys did, but this specific donkey was not yet broken. You do not climb up on a donkey or horse that isn't broken unless you just really have need to eat some dirt! There is a reason why horses and donkeys have to be broken to accept a human rider. They don't because they're smart and they don't trust us. We are at war with their Master, they can feel it; it's the reason why animals fear us, it takes a lot of training for an animal to overcome that feeling. But even a broken donkey wouldn't suffice for this situation: Jesus is thronged by people who are yelling, singing, and throwing their cloaks and palm branches out in front of Him. If you climb on just any donkey, and they do all of that around him, prepare to be dumped. But Jesus climbs onto an unbroken donkey who has all the wrong circumstances presented in front of him, and yet he's just fine with it. This is nothing short of a miracle, this shouldn't have worked, but it did. Any other person under similar circumstances would have eaten a dust sandwich. But this donkey wasn't under the circumstances; he was under the Savior!

3. The only way you and I can be the right donkey is to be the one under the Savior.

- ✓ Only the one under the Savior gets it right that day. Those around the Savior did not have it right, even though they worshipped Him and praised Him as Israel's king, they wanted Him to jump through their hoops and be what they wanted Him to be. Even after all He said and demonstrated to them, even though He had told them their problem wasn't the Romans, it was God, they were _____, the wrong donkeys. Jesus demands to be in the saddle of our lives; He demands absolute authority over us; He calls us slaves. He doesn't have an authority complex; He just wants to make things right for us. When Jesus is in the saddle, His power doesn't break you; it heals you. When Jesus is in the saddle, the only thing we lose is whatever we would have done with our lives. Since we are bunch of _____, we will gain what He can do with us.

That donkey got to be the best a donkey could ever be, the best a donkey could ever hope for, no other donkey can claim the title of bearing the Savior. Jesus is the only thing that can control us and not destroy us; everything and everyone else does. We cannot be under anything else and survive. Don't think for a second you can opt out of being ridden; something is always going to be in the saddle of your life! You're either controlled by the Savior, or you will be controlled by whatever climbs onto the saddle.
