

2009-2010 WORLD MISSIONS SERMON OUTLINE

THE LORD HAS NEED OF YOUR DONKEY

Don Exley

TEXT

“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell them that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away” (Matthew 21:2-3).

INTRODUCTION

This text is seemingly a “strange” request from the Lord.

- A. Sometimes Jesus did strange things such as:
 - 1. Spit in the mud and make a mud bath to anoint eyes (Mark 8:23)
 - 2. Sleep in raging winds and waves (Matthew 8:24)
 - 3. Purposefully delay arrival to a sick friend’s house until the friend dies (John 11:6)
 - 4. Let a woman wash His feet with her hair (John 12:3)
 - 5. Now, He wants to make off with someone else’s donkeys.
- B. Jesus knows everything and surprises His disciples with these seemingly insignificant details found in our text.
- C. The donkey was not even His own.

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

- 1. Jesus was too poor to have a place for His head (Matthew 8:20).
 - 2. Jesus was too poor to even own a donkey.
 - 3. Since Jesus was poor we cannot use poverty as an excuse for doing wrong.
- D. This story teaches us much more than an interesting sidebar of the last days of Jesus, as we will see in the next three points.

- I. Jesus establishes His Lordship
 - A. The Bible declares, *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it (1 Corinthians 10:26)*. So, His right to use the donkeys is clearly established.
 - B. Jesus told His disciples to untie the two donkeys and bring them to Him. His command to take the donkeys is clear.
 - C. His disciples had to have been amazed at the crystal clear instructions and of His knowledge of the exact location of the donkeys.
 - 1. His supernatural knowledge was not new (John 16:30).
 - 2. They received an “unbiblical” command to take something that seemingly belonged to another.
 - 3. The issue here is that of *Lordship*.
 - D. For years I struggled with an unsaved architect over a project. I finally realized the real struggle was over whose project this really was.
 - E. The battle: My way versus the Lord's way, or my headship versus His Lordship.
 - F. Jesus has placed His claim on your life. The battle lines have been drawn. Jesus has need of you.
- II. Jesus established priorities
 - A. The disciples were rightly worried about taking someone else's valuable animal. The disciples understood the Commandment against stealing. Jesus foresaw that possible situation and told them if anyone asked what they were doing to say, “The Lord needs them.”
 - B. Those are the first words of this passage that captured my attention: “The Lord needs them.”
 - C. Jesus has a mission to fulfill and He needed those donkeys to do so.

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).
 - D. His mission was to fulfill God's plan of salvation for a lost world.
 - E. That mission claims priority usage on all of us: our time, goals, career, finances and everything other part of our lives.

Recently we needed to find a new house for our Barnabas Center. As we looked at rental properties we also looked at sale properties. We are also in a massive building program but as I prayed the Lord said, “Never stop investing in souls.”

- F. The Lord told His disciples if anyone asked what they were doing to say, “The Lord needs them.”

The Lord says to you, “I also need you.” He is not ashamed to ask. He needs all of you and all that you have.

1. About four years ago I preached on missions at a conference. Sabrina came to me and said, “I have saved up \$180 and God told me to give it all.” She did. Today Sabrina has finished Bible school and is serving as a missionary associate in Italy with a missionary family from our church.
2. On behalf of the Lord of the Harvest I am not ashamed to ask you to give everything for the cause of the mission.

III. Jesus dealt with human hesitancy

- A. The Lord dealt with the disciples’ fears.

1. Why me?
2. Why do I have to go?
3. I don’t like donkeys?
4. I’m not capable ... someone else will be better prepared.
5. What if the owner gets upset?

- B. Jesus had prepared the owner’s heart and told the disciples the owner would send the donkeys right away.

- C. Wow! Right away!

- D. Why are you hesitant? He is looking for faithful, called people who will take on the burden of the lost and live to win the world.

1. Some of you just want out to go back to your career, your life, to doing your will.
2. Some of you have believed the lie for too long ... that you are nothing.
3. Some of you are hesitant because you do not want to pay the price.

CONCLUSION

Once you really know Jesus, your answer will be, “Right away, Master!”

AGWM missionary Don Exley is the area director for the southern cone of South America.