

Discussion Questions
Lessons From a Donkey
April 17, 2011

- I. *Matthew 21:1-11* **1**When they had approached Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, **2**saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. **3**“If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.” **4**This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “**SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, ‘BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, GENTLE, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.’**” **6**The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, **7**and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats. **8**Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. **9**The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David; **BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!**” **10**When He had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, “Who is this?” **11**And the crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee.”
- a. What thoughts do you have about the Triumphal Entry? What sticks out to you?
- II. Significance of Riding a Donkey
- a. What is important about Christ fulfilling the Scriptures? What if He hadn't?
- b. What do donkeys symbolize today? Contrast that with the view of them in ancient times.
- i. How does the difference in view impact Christ entering on a donkey? See Philippians 2:5-8
- ii. How are we to follow this example in our daily lives? What are actual examples of ways to be humble in your relationships/at work etc?
- c. What's the difference between kings at peace and kings at war? What significance does this have in regards to Christ? How and when is He characterized as each of these?
- III. Lessons From a Donkey
- a. You are needed/called by Christ
- i. What does it mean to be needed by God? How is this part of His plan?

- ii. Who exactly is needed/called by Christ? See Rev 3:19-21
- iii. What are our options when responding? What is the impact of our decision?

b. You are to carry Christ

i. Luke 9:23 *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."*

1. Why does anyone wish to come after Christ? What are reasons people give? How do these reasons hold up when faced with temptation? Do they make you stay the course and obey?
2. What are real life ways you deny yourself and take up your cross daily?

ii. 1 Peter 2:20-24 *For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 25For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.*

1. To what purpose have we been called? How does one suffer for doing right?
2. What is our example that we are to follow? Break down the cultural barrier and how does Christ's example of suffering transpose into the way we suffer in the Western world today?
3. What does it look like to entrust ourselves to Him who judges righteously?

iii. Romans 8:16-18 *The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. 18For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

1. Who are heirs of God? Who are co-heirs with Christ?

2. What are some real life examples of sufferings that we endure that make it difficult for us to stay the course?

c. You are to be under His control

i. Romans 8:5-9 *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

1. What is the difference between one who has his mind set on the flesh and someone who has his mind set on the Spirit? Are these differences noticeable either to others or oneself? Do you ever have your mind set on the flesh? If so, how do you counter this?

ii. Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

1. Well-known verse but what does this mean? Why should we bother not being conformed to this world? What is the will of God?
2. How are we transformed? Why do we resist being transformed?

d. You are to disappear while Christ is worshipped

i. How is Christ truly worshipped in this day and age?

ii. John 3:30 *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

1. How do we make this happen in our day to day life? What does this actually look like? Where does Christ increasing and us decreasing begin?

IV. So, what lesson from the donkey do you need to work on most today?

