**Trinity Bible Church**

**Palm Sunday Message April 5, 2020**

**Mark 11:1-11 - “Lessons From a Donkey”**

While contemplating preaching a new message on a very familiar passage of Scripture that is preached at least once every year, I believe the Lord gave me one. I don’t remember giving much attention to the colt that Jesus chose to ride upon as He presented Himself as the promised King of Israel. I believe we can learn some lessons from this little donkey.

**HUMILITY**

We would expect the horse to be a better choice and if a horse and the donkey stood side by side,

the donkey would appear the more humbled. But our Lord chose a young donkey for His use.

In I Corinthians 1:26 – 29 we read: **“for you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”** Rather humbling isn’t it?

 But yet, it is encouraging that He chooses us. Recall in I Samuel 16:7 when Samuel was to anoint one of the sons of Jesse to be the future king of Israel and God rejected the obvious ones and young insignificant David was chosen. God told Samuel that He doesn’t look on the outward appearance but on the heart.

Too many Christians disqualify themselves from serving the Lord because they compare themselves to others saying “I could never do what he/she does” or “I’m too shy to witness.” That’s fear! That’s doubt! Remember Philippians 4:13: **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

I Thessalonians 5:24: **“Faithful is He who called you who also will do it.”** God will **never** call you to a task that He also will not equip you with the ability to do it!

Hebrews 11:6: **“without faith it is impossible to please Him.”**

 **SUBMISSIVNESS**

Mark 11:2 says that the colt was one “on which no one has ever sat.” That must be significant because it is repeated in Luke 19:30. It means the colt was inexperienced; it was not tame, nor trained for any use. Matthew 21:2 tells us that the colt was tied with its mother and so we would expect that the colt would be fearful and resistant to be taken by strangers and putting clothes on its back. We would expect this young, untamed colt to be resistant and uncontrollable with a noisy crowd shouting and throwing palm branches and clothes in front of it.

And yet, the colt was submissive! Because the colt knew its Master, its Creator. We read nothing of the colt’s fear or resistance but only that Jesus led him through the noisy crowd to His destination. Jesus led him all the way because the colt was submissive to Him.

The colt seemed almost unnoticed as everyone’s eyes and attention were fixed on Jesus; we read nowhere of anyone saying “look at the handsome colt” and it seems the colt got no credit for what it was doing. It was just submissive to the Lord, yielded to His control to let Him lead.

**OBEDIENCE.**

The colt was obedient to the Lord, whether or not it felt like doing what it did or going where it went, Jesus held the reins. All that we know about the colt is that it did what the Lord wanted it to do. The donkey’s task didn’t seem like much but now we know how important its task was, the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 was being fulfilled and Jesus was proclaiming Himself as the promised King of Israel!

In humble submissive obedience the Lord’s will was accomplished and He received the glory!

Pastor