

The Disciples, the Donkey and the Deliverer

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Mark 11:1-10

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Palm Sunday has three characters worth watching. The disciples get an instruction that sounds like stealing: untie a colt that is not yours, and if anyone asks, say the Lord needs it. They obey before they understand. The donkey has spent its whole life tied up and never ridden, and the Lord needs exactly that one. And the deliverer is not the one the crowd ordered: they wanted Rome overthrown, and within a week the same voices turned on him. Pastor Matt's point: obedience usually comes before understanding, and the real Jesus is better than the one we imagine.

To get started

- What has God asked of you that did not make sense at the time?

Looking back at the message

Three figures, three applications. Keep them distinct rather than blending them.

- 1 Pastor Matt admitted he fills every empty space in his own schedule, and struggles to make room for God. How full is yours, and who filled it?
- 2 Jesus told the disciples to untie a colt that did not belong to them and say only: the Lord needs it. When have you obeyed before you understood?
- 3 Pastor Matt lingered on the donkey: tied up, never ridden, watching other donkeys work all over town. When have you felt like that, capable but unused? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Mark 11:1-10. The instruction in verses 2 and 3 is stranger than it sounds when read quickly.

- 4 Read Mark 11:1-6. What exactly are the disciples told to do and say?
- 5 The colt had never been ridden. What does it mean that the Lord needs that one?
- 6 Read verses 7-10. What are the people shouting, and what kind of king were they expecting?
- 7 Read Zechariah 9:9. What kind of king does that verse describe? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

The expectations point is the hardest one. It asks people what they actually want from Jesus.

- 8 What have you been expecting God to do that he has not done?
- 9 The Palm Sunday crowd praised the Messiah they imagined and turned on the one they got. When have you praised the Jesus you wanted instead of the one who is?
- 10 Where do you feel underused right now, and what would it mean to hear: the Lord needs it?
- 11 What adjustment is God calling you to that would look strange to people around you?

OPTIONAL

The group together

The crowd's shift from Hosanna to crucify happened in a week. Worth sitting with.

- 12 How does a crowd go from praise to hostility in a single week?
- 13 What expectations of Jesus does our culture carry that the Bible never promises?
- 14 Who in this group is in a waiting season and needs to hear that the Lord needs them?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What instruction have you been waiting to understand before you obey it?

You might pray about

- For people who feel tied up and unused
- For obedience before understanding
- For expectations of Jesus that need correcting