



FOLLOW THE
DONKEY

NEIGHBORLY

What made him a great neighbor is the fact he was unconcerned about being taken advantage of and more concerned about taking advantage of a moment to show kindness and compassion regardless of the cost to himself.

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 2:24



NEIGHBORLY

Donkeys are great daily neighbors

They tend to have a good relationship with most creatures that don't try to eat them

They tend to be very social with other donkeys

They look after one another

They are protectors of flocks or herds they live with even if it's not full of other donkeys

FOR US?





5 “DONKEY LAWS” for neighborly living



COVETING

*"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or **donkey**, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

Exodus 20:17

Covet: An excessive or obsessive desire to possess what belongs to another

Lust: an intense longing : craving

Envy: painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage



COVETING

If I begin to covet then I begin to figure out how to get.

Getting means I must focus on myself and even tear down another (*James 4:2*)

Thus, we must remember Jesus' treasure rule

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:20



RESPONSIBILITY



*“If anyone uncovers a pit or digs one and fails to cover it and an ox or a **donkey** falls into it, the one who opened the pit must pay the owner for the loss and take the dead animal in exchange.”*

Exodus 21:33-34

The person that dug the pit needs to take responsibility

Responsibility is not saying “*you should have taken better care of your donkey and not let them wander into my pit*”



RESTITUTION

*If the stolen animal is found alive in their possession whether ox or **donkey** or sheep, they must pay back double.*

Exodus 22:4

Please notice it did not say you stole the donkey, it merely says you were found in possession of a stolen donkey

Also notice the donkey is still alive so just give it back, no harm no foul right?



PAY DOUBLE!



RESTITUTION

Like the responsibility issue it forces me to look out for my neighbor

If I know my neighbor's donkey is stolen and suddenly somebody offers me a good donkey deal, then I should think about my neighbor

That is kind of a focus of all these laws, being a good neighbor is less about being "nice" to them and more about taking the focus off myself and putting it on them



FORGIVENESS

“If anyone gives a **donkey**, an ox, a sheep or any other animal to their neighbor for safekeeping and it dies or is injured or is taken away while no one is looking, the issue between them will be settled by the taking of an oath before the Lord that the neighbor did not lay hands on the other person’s property. The owner is to accept this, and no restitution is required. But if the animal was stolen from the neighbor, restitution must be made to the owner. If it was torn to pieces by a wild animal, the neighbor shall bring in the remains as evidence and shall not be required to pay for the torn animal.”

Exodus 22:10-13



FORGIVENESS



The law of responsibility dealt with a dead donkey

The law of Restitution dealt with a stolen but alive donkey

Here we are talking about a dead or even injured donkey that was placed in another's care

I hope you get by now the donkey in our case is a metaphor for anything even something abstract like trust



FORGIVENESS

Note the restitution clause is still there so we are at least supposed to try

In this case things just can't be undone

The person that committed the offense takes responsibility

But in the end the offended person must forgive



FORGIVENESS

Why? Because we were forgiven

***Bear with each other and forgive one another
if any of you has a grievance against
someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.***

Colossians 3:13



MY ENEMY



“If you come across your enemy’s ox or **donkey** wandering off, be sure to return it. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it.”

Exodus 23:4-5

We have different views, or opinions

Maybe we have some history that while forgiven just makes things complicated

It could be its a personality conflict, or we each do things that drive the other crazy



MY ENEMY

However, just because we are not buddies does not mean we are not neighbors

I am still supposed to be concerned about you

I am still supposed to help you

This was the entire point of Jesus picking the Samaritan as the hero of his story

We may not like each other, but I am still supposed to love you as God loves you



DONKEY LAWS



Am I my brother's donkey's keeper?

He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“Who is my neighbor?”

Luke 10:27

This man was a lover of the law

The Law Matters! (*Matthew 5:17*)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”



DONKEY LAWS

Am I my brother's donkey's keeper?

Remember we are God's neighbor and in coming to us and going to the cross he demonstrated what I means to be a "God like" neighbor

I guess metaphorically speaking he put us on his donkey and carries our brokenness with him unconcerned about the cost.

**"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied.
"Do this and you will live."**



DONKEY LAWS

Am I my brother's donkey's keeper?

Note the command is not like, feel sorry for, or even tolerate, its love (**John 15:12-17**)

Loving may mean I am not waiting for an opportunity to show Christ, but instead I am to look out for my neighbor's donkey

But maybe if I followed the laws of the donkey, maybe I would get a chance to show Christ to them



Follow the
DONKEY

