

JOHN 12:12-16

Follow the
DONKEY



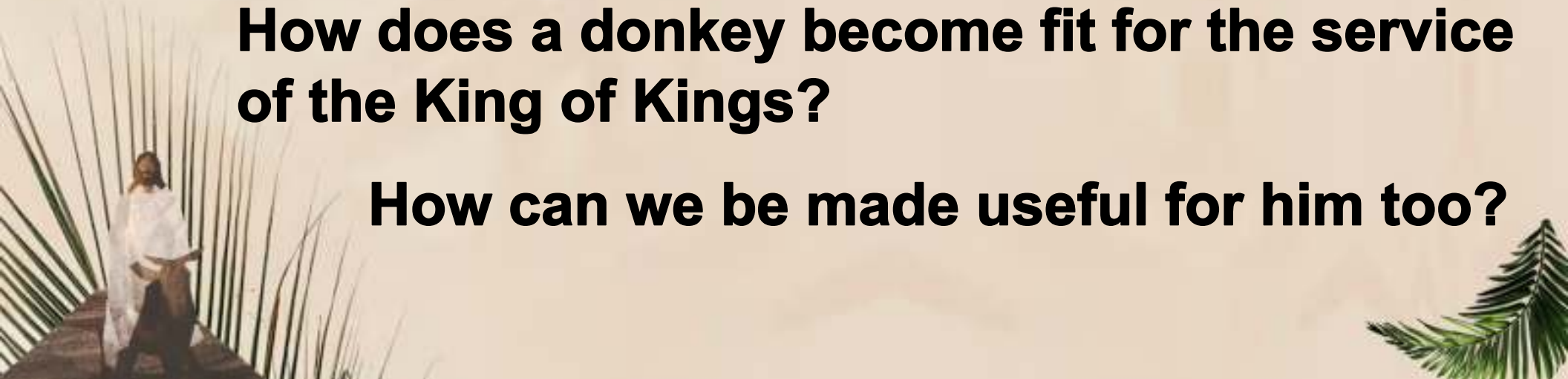
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT?

It makes the Messianic claim unmistakable

If God can use a stinky little donkey in the triumphant fulfillment of his plan, then just maybe he's got a plan for me too

How does a donkey become fit for the service of the King of Kings?

How can we be made useful for him too?





There are four important things that make this donkey fit for royal service, and they are equally important for us...

BECOMING A DONKEY OTHERS CAN FOLLOW!



THE DONKEY IS SELECTED

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “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, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

Matthew 21:1-3



THE DONKEY IS SELECTED

Bethphage is just outside of Bethany

This is where Lazarus lived (*John 11:1*)

We know this is where Jesus stopped just before his triumphant entry (*John 12:1*)

And we know Jesus had a following in the area (*John 12:10-11*)

Clearly Jesus has decided to use this donkey ahead of time.



THE DONKEY IS SELECTED

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

Matthew 21:4-5

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9



THE DONKEY IS SELECTED

God had a plan, and this donkey as a species was selected by God and then this donkey specifically by Jesus to play a part in His plan.

This specific donkey had been set aside for a noble purpose

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

John 15:16



THE DONKEY IS SELECTED

It is Our Design

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

He has prepared in advance good works for you to do.



THE DONKEY SANCTIFIED

Set apart as or declare holy; consecrate

It couldn't be just any old donkey!

You will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden.

Mark 11:2

Such animals in Jewish tradition often had special religious significance, because they had never been used for any worldly purpose.



THE DONKEY SANCTIFIED

We too must be set apart

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

Galatians 1:15-16

**Being set apart mean I
prioritize what I am doing**

**I Preserve my time and energy
to use for the Lord's service.**



THE DONKEY SANCTIFIED

**So often we give him the leftovers of our life
when He desires our first fruits**

***Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first
fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be
filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim
over with new wine.***

Proverbs 3:9-10



THE DONKEY SANCTIFIED

Being set apart means I may have to do some preparation

They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

The donkey was led to Jesus, not the other way around

It was prepared with the use of cloaks

Then Jesus climbed aboard and off they went together to fulfill the mission



THE DONKEY HAD TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE

It was not enough that it got picked

It was not enough that it set apart
for the job

It had to do the job

While not exactly stubborn from
the series we have learned donkeys are not known
for a submissive temperament

Just like people, they can be head strong,
opinionated, and cautious (*2 Chronicles 30:8*)



THE DONKEY HAD TO SERVE ITS PURPOSE

Even though it had never been ridden it had to allow Jesus to sit and steer.

This donkey allowed itself to be used (*Romans 12:1*)

These are the “S” words none of us like; **Submissive** and **Sacrificial**

The donkey could not take its own path it had to go the way of Jesus

Through a rowdy crowd it went presenting Jesus

Steady as you go, this was no job for a horse



IT HAD TO BE SATISFIED

You ever wonder what they did with it when they were done

I assume the returned it to the farmer

It did not get a fancy costume

The donkey just played a humble bit part in the fulfillment of prophecy

Its job was to lift up Jesus so that Jesus can be seen by the crowd.



IT HAD TO BE SATISFIED

We have a similar role in God's plan

Not to be exalted but to exalt Christ

To make him be seen by the world

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Galatians 6:13

**Jesus warned us in His sermon on the mount
not to be like the religious people who did
their good deeds to be seen by men**



WILLING TO BE THE DONKEY

The background of the slide is a stylized illustration of a desert scene at sunset. The sky is a warm orange-yellow. In the foreground, a person wearing a dark robe and a head covering is riding a dark donkey. They are moving from left to right across a rocky, uneven terrain. To the right, there are several palm trees. The overall style is reminiscent of a classic adventure storybook illustration.

It's one thing to read a "story," it's entirely different to allow yourself to be used and become part of somebody else's story