



FOLLOW
THE DONKEY
The Continuing Journey

How did we get here?

After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord's anger

Judges 2:10-12





This is what sin looks like when it goes unchecked, when God's people refuse to live in relationship with God

The Disgusting Headline

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.

Judges 17:6

**God's people no longer saw
God as their authority**

**There was no physical king sitting on a
throne making decrees**

**No visible enforcement,
no tangible display of power and
in their minds, no present authority**

They decided to do whatever felt right to them



The Lives the Donkey Walked

Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her parents' home in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months, her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her parents' home, and when her father saw him, he gladly welcomed him.

Judges 19:1–3



The Donkey of Disgust

A Levite, a spiritual leader has a concubine

Her status is outside God's design, yet her father gladly welcomes it

The boundaries between holy and tolerated are blurring fast



The story now moves from compromise to catastrophe, and the descent happens fast as the Levite leaves her father's home with concubine in tow

The Night the Donkey Witnessed

When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, “Come, let’s stop at this city of the Jebusites and spend the night.” His master replied, “No. We won’t go into any city whose people are not Israelites. We will go on to Gibeah.”

(v. 11–12)

Why was there a Jebusite city in Israel?

The Levite refuses to stay among these pagans, yet heads for a supposedly godly city



The Night the Donkey Witnessed

While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, “Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him.”

To save himself the Levite offered up the concubine to be used and abused (v. 22)

When the night was done, she went back to the house looking for refuge

She collapses at the threshold, her hands reaching for safety that never comes



The Night the Donkey Witnessed

Later when he awakens from his night's sleep, the Levite, unmoved and unrepentant, loads her broken body onto the donkey and the donkey carries what the man refuses to feel

Once home, in fury, verse 29 tells us he cuts her body into twelve pieces and sends them throughout Israel



Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So, speak up!"

(v. 30)

The Disgusting Question!

**In the story from Judges 19,
what's the most disgusting sin
mentioned? _____**



**Our disgust reveals less
about the depth of sin and
more about which sins we've
learned to live with**

The Donkey's Lessons

The donkey of disgust teaches us this: when sin no longer shocks us, destruction is already underway

The donkey doesn't speak, it just bears the burden of a broken world

**“Why are you shocked now?
Didn't you see this coming?”**

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Luke 6:41



The Donkey's Lessons

We Measure Sin by Its Mess; God Measures It by Its Motive

Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

James 2:10

But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person

Matthew 15:18-20



The Donkey's Lessons

**We wince at violence, betrayal, cruelty but
God feels that same disgust toward
bitterness, pride, and withheld compassion**

We've sprayed perfume over what God calls putrid

**The donkey of disgust reminds us:
God smells the stench of sin we've
stopped noticing**



The Donkey's Lessons

The Church must call sin what it is
but without throwing stones



In John 8 the woman caught in adultery was dragged
before Jesus, the crowd was ready to throw rocks

They claimed disgust from her sin but were blind to
their own

Jesus didn't excuse her, but
He didn't execute her either

His words to her were not *“my grace is
sufficient,”* but *“go and sin no more.”*



The Donkey's Lessons

To the disgusted He said, *“Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.”*



Grace does not minimize sin it just refuses to weaponize it

The donkey's burden points us to one that could have thrown a stone but instead became our burden bearer.

One who carried our filth, not to condemn us, but to cleanse us

The sad part is the people that were disgusted enough to throw rocks were not disgusted enough to be delivered and just walked away



From Disgust to Deliverance

We see a world gone wrong and say, “It’s disgusting.”

But maybe God is saying, “Let that disgust drive you to repentance, not resentment.”

The world doesn’t need more outrage, it needs a church that still believes sin is deadly and grace is real

Let the disgust you feel become conviction, not condemnation



From Disgust to Deliverance

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The filth of Judges 19, the hidden sins of our hearts; all were laid on Him

2 Corinthians 5:21

Through his sacrifice, He turned what was repulsive into redemption

If Christ bore your disgusting sin, you can't despise another sinner He died for





We must not bar the door of grace, then dissect a life that sin has already destroyed so we can prove a point

From Disgust to Deliverance

Instead of the locked doorway of death, we need to offer the power of the cross, where disgust met deliverance, and death met its match

We started with a donkey carrying the weight of sin's shame

But we end with a Savior who carried that shame all the way to Calvary

The donkey was silent, but the cross began to speak, and it still calls to us today



**The Disgusting Donkey
confronts us with the
seriousness of sin but also
points us to the Savior.**

