

This account in the context of Jesus' triumphal entry provides some interesting stewardship considerations.

THE REQUEST

Consider the level of trust displayed by the two disciples who obey the Lord's directive to waltz into a village and take a donkey belonging to a total stranger. That would be tantamount to asking a rancher or contractor for the keys to his pickup truck today.

Consider the request from the standpoint of the donkey's owner. Two strangers walk off with your donkey explaining simply that the master has need of it. Allowing the donkey to be taken, if only for one day, represents a huge sacrifice.

THE RESPONSE

The inspired account records no resistance on the part of the owner. For all we know, he was honored that the Lord wanted to use the donkey.

Compare and contrast this response to your attitude and reaction when the Lord sends His disciples to make use of the treasure He has entrusted to your management.

Our response should reflect the realization that giving to God is for our benefit, not for God's benefit. We dare not have the attitude that God's glory depends upon our donkey. Refusing to relinquish his donkey was not going to thwart the Lord's eternal plan. Jesus was going to enter the city midst shouts of "Hosanna!" Withholding our donkey is not going to stop Him from fulfilling His earthly mission of providing atonement and becoming our propitiation. We should gladly release our donkey for His life-saving mission.

THE RESPONSIBILITY

The use the Master had for the donkey was greater than any use the man had for the animal!

If the information I have is accurate, the explanation Jesus' disciples were to give when taking the donkey may be translated thusly: "the Lord of it needs it." In other words, "The Lord needs His donkey," or "The Lord's donkey is needed." The title given to this sermon through the years has usually been "The Lord Needs Your Donkey." But that misses the primary point of stewardship that the donkey you possess actually belongs to God.

We have the responsibility to acknowledge that everything we have in our possession belongs to God. We should neither hesitate nor resist, therefore, when He calls for its use.

THE RESULT

When we relinquish the Lord's donkey for His use, we receive rich blessings and eternal benefits.

When missionaries present the needs of their ministries, God may be calling upon you to untie His donkey. When there is a need that could be addressed by talents and other resources at your disposal, it may be that God is calling upon you to untie His donkey.

I have come to you today on behalf of the owner of the donkey you possess.

He requests the use of it to accomplish His earthly mission and to display His eternal glory. The faithful steward will eagerly relinquish the earthly pleasures afforded by the use of the Lord's donkey in favor of sharing the eternal

rewards accruing to many as He rides that donkey into the lives of countless souls who will welcome His entrance.

What the Lord desires first and foremost, however, is you. The donkey you possess will mean nothing in terms of your relationship to God until you first give yourself back to Him. The key to the generosity of the Macedonians (2 Cor. 8:5) is the fact that they first gave themselves to the Lord.

The Lord has need of you. Will you untie yourself from the world and allow the Lord to use you? He has given you life on this earth and He offers you life in eternity in heaven. I am asking you to give your life back to Him, consecrated and dedicated to accomplishing His earthly mission.

All to Jesus I surrender,

Humbly at His feet I bow.

Worldly pleasures all forsaken,

Take me, Jesus, take me now.

I surrender all, I surrender all.

All to Thee, my blessed Savior,

I surrender all.

— Judson W. Van DeVenter

All He wants is you.

Nothing less will do.

Not just a part,

He wants all of your heart.

All He wants is all of you.

The LORD needs HIS donkey

Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40

by Gene McCoy

