

March 18, 2024

Meditation

Let the Party Begin

For almost an entire year, my son has been planning his birthday party. He wanted everything to be perfect. He had many different ideas as the year went on — bowling, party at the park, a dance party, a music party, and on and on. Ultimately, he decided on a fancy race car party. He planned for months to make it perfect by picking out party favors, games to play, and planning snacks and treats. He wanted everything to be just perfect.

Passover was to be celebrated every year in Jerusalem. Jews would travel from around the world to celebrate it. The plans for the festival must have been tremendous — the travel arrangements, the accommodations, the supplies for the meal, and, not to mention, the invitations shared with friends and loved ones.

Upon His arrival in Jerusalem, Jesus had quite the greeting. Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:1–10).

It might have looked a little bit like theft at first, but the owner of the colt let them take it for Jesus' use. The owners were probably unaware of the important role they had in fulfilling an ancient prophecy, the plan stated long ago. The prophecy comes from Zechariah 9:9. How would you react if the king of the universe wanted to borrow your colt for a trip in to town? The owners of the colt had potentially heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Two of His disciples had said Jesus had need of it and would return it once He was done. Maybe they thought it would be an opportunity to meet the great teacher, healer, and Messiah when the colt was returned. Maybe they wanted to ask Him questions about the law. We do not know their motivation in sharing their young donkey colt. What we do know is they were obedient to the call issued to them by Jesus.

How can we be obedient to Jesus' call in our lives? Is He calling you to something simple like sharing your resources with others, or loving your difficult neighbor? Or is He calling you to something more complex and difficult like taking a risk with a new career, a move, or big

change? Regardless, you can trust God as He leads and directs your paths, even if it's as simple as sharing all that you have with Him.

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