

THE STONES CRY OUT-Part 2
Luke 19.28-40

I have this burning question
 I've wanted to ask you for about a month now,

How many of you have a donkey?
 Don't be embarrassed to raise your hand if you do.

Ok, how many of you don't have a donkey?
 Hands please.

Ok, now many of you have figured out I'm going to tell you
 that you do have a donkey
 and you just don't know what it is yet?
 You don't have to raise your hands.

We read today that one of the things
 Jesus wanted was a donkey.

So, we surmise that Jesus wants your "donkey" too.
 We'll translate that to say something like,
JESUS WANTS SOMETHING FROM YOU.

Actually this passage tells us
 there are at least three things that Jesus want from you.

The first is SOMETHING OF WORTH TO YOU
 The second is TO WORK WITHIN YOU
AND the third, JESUS WANTS YOU TO WORK AND WITNESS FOR HIM.

JESUS WANTS SOMETHING OF WORTH

Jesus and his disciples are headed for Jerusalem.

And Jesus tells them to,

³⁰"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it,
 you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden.
 Untie it and bring it here.

³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?'
 tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'

The disciples are obedient.

They found the colt, the owner asks
 "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴They replied, "The Lord needs it."

**And the donkey owner complied,
 he gave Jesus what he asked for,
 he gave him something that,**

**if it wasn't of some worth before,
it would become something of worth.**

**And wouldn't that be just like Jesus
to use a donkey instead of a war stallion
for his coronation parade.**

**That would be like the celebrities arriving at the Oscars
in an old beat up sedan instead of a shining black limousine.**

**Never mind that, the real question is,
has Jesus ever asked you to give him something
that is of value or worth to you?**

**Max Lacado tells the story of meeting a small,
Oriental maid of modest means.
He and a friend met her in Hawaii going door to door
to invite people to nightly revival meetings.**

**When she learned they were Christians, she insisted they come in.
She took them to her work room full of glue, paint,
and pieces of wood carved like an open book.**

**She told them she couldn't read so she couldn't teach.
She didn't have large income so it was tough to give a lot of money.
But she had skilled hands, and could make "crafty kinds of" things.**

**Her latest project was to take an "open wooden book,"
put a person's picture on one side
and put a scripture on the other side.**

**Her thinking.
People like to look at their pictures.
So if they hang this picture on the wall,
every time they look at their picture,
they'll see a scripture verse too.**

**Isn't that sweet?
Do you think God can use that?
We have a very creative God, I'm sure he would.
And if God can use that, he'll use something you have as well.**

**He can use a few of or even many minutes of your time
for you to be with your spouse, your children, your parents,
your friend, a youth, a co-worker,
or even a nursing home resident.**

**He can use a few of or many of your dollars.
You could give them to a friend in need,
a stranger in need, the church,
or even to the Faith for the Future Campaign
to whittle away the church's debt.**

He can use your service, your special abilities, talents, or skills to bring about a life changing experience for someone else.

Time, talent, and money-those are your donkeys.
And when you think about it,
whatever your donkey is, it belongs to Jesus anyway.

It's interesting to know that an ancient law required citizens to give to the King whatever he or his servants asked for because basically it was the king's in the first place.
Jesus is making use of that law.

It's like in the movies when we see police officers commandeer cars when chasing criminals-it's the same kind of thing.
The car becomes the officer's car.

Anyway, the second thing Jesus wants from you today
Is to enter our lives and **WORK FROM WITHIN.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus rides the colt into the city.
It's a ticker tape parade.
People were throwing their cloaks on the road, waving palm branches,
Proclaiming Jesus as their new King, praising God, saying,
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest. (verse 38)

The people believed that Jesus was coming
to deliver them from the ruthless Roman rule.

He was coming to deliver them alright.
But he was going to deliver them from themselves,
from the ruthless reign and rule of sin and death in their lives.

His Triumphal Entry 2000 years ago
Serves as a wonderful metaphor for us today.
Maybe for you that entrance of Jesus was a well defined moment in time.
Maybe for you it was a grand entrance or perhaps a more gradual entrance.

Maybe there was a lot of fanfare
or did he come in the midst of crisis, confusion, or chaos
to bring order to your life and help you sort things out.

Maybe things changed quickly-maybe not.
But something changed.
Something was different.

You felt different...loved, forgiven, healed, cleansed, whole, peaceful, free, whatever.
You started to think differently, believe differently, and behave differently.

Maybe God's love for you has always been very real.
 You grew up knowing that Jesus died on a cross for you.
 You knew and lived in that love.
 Over the years you've found opportunities to recognize and receive that love.

You can't pinpoint that exact time,
 but you confess and celebrate it anyway.

Or maybe Jesus hasn't made that grand or gradual entrance into your life at all.
 And that could be for any number of reasons.
 Who knows?
 Maybe today is the day.
 Maybe today is your Palm Sunday.

Believe me he wants to make that entrance into your life.
 And know this, too,
 once he is there, he wants to stay.

He wants an intimate, loving, caring relationship with you and I.
 How that all happens is a mystery.

It is easy to say, somewhat difficult to explain,
 and maybe even more difficult to understand.

Dr. Tackett of the Truth Project gives us a new churchy word to describe that relationship,
 Unio Mystica (un-nee-o miss-tee-ca)
 It means mystical union.

Paul uses a question to teach us about this relationship, I Corinthians 3.16,
 "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple
 and God's Spirit lives in you?"

And through John Jesus makes this promise, John 14.17,
 "...the Spirit of Truth.
 The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees nor knows him.
 But you know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you."

And Jesus in John 15.5 tell us that we are productive,
 "...if a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.
 Apart from me you can do nothing."

Local Theologian Jay Koch would readily agree
 that there will be good, great, and godly changes when one accepts Christ.

He readily disagrees with a yearly devotional he heard about that is called, "When I Accept Me..."
 Each week there is statement in the devotional like,
 "When I accepted me...I found inner peace.

When I accepted me...I started listening to my inner voice.
When I accepted me...I fell in love with me.”

Jay is going to write his own devotional, “When I accepted Christ...”
The titles of the weekly devotionals will read like this,
“When I accepted Christ...I found inner peace.
“When I accepted Christ...I started listening to the Holy Spirit.
“When I accepted Christ...I fell in love with him
and I fell in love with me.

David, the shepherd boy and king, the man after God’s own heart
speaks of this need, “my soul thirst for God, for the living God...”

Many of you have heard Augustine’s quote,
“God has made us for Himself and our hearts
are restless until we find our rest in Him.”

Jesus not only WANTS SOMETHING OF WORTH FROM US,
Jesus not only WANTS TO LIVE AND WORK WITHIN US,
Jesus wants us TO WORK AND WITNESS FOR HIM.

Verses 39-40, “Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said,
Teacher, rebuke your disciples.
I tell you, Jesus replied, If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Does anyone remember the Palm Sunday service two years ago?
The folks in the Contemporary Service are more likely to remember
because that was the first service in the Christian Life Center.

Stones in the Bible provide witness, bear witness,
mark a place where someone has experienced God,

Like Abraham at Shechem,
Jacob when he had his dream at Bethel,
And the Israelites when they crossed the Jordan.

Well, you and I are surrounded by brick and mortar, stones
Both in the sanctuary and in the gym.
They bear witness to our experiences of God.

And we as living stones have a story to tell.
A story of marking God’s work in our lives.

It doesn’t have to be the creep to Christian story.
You and I have experience new lives, changed lives, healed lives
In worship, wedding, funeral, or baptismal services;

Or in special gatherings to celebrate birthdays or anniversaries;

Or at inspirational and athletic events;
Or in Bible Studies, support groups, Sunday School, or simulcasts.

And whether you think so or not, God can use your story.
The only thing is for God to use your story-
you have to tell your story.

Do you recognize the name Kimball?
You might recognize the name Dwight Moody.

Well Kimball was a SS teacher, anxious and apprehensive,
walked into Moody's shoe store one day.
Moody changed from selling shoes to selling a Savior.
Moody influenced the life of Fredrick Meyer a campus preacher.
And Meyer's preaching converted J Wilbur Chapman, who was involved in the YMCA.

Chapman arranged for evangelist Billy Sunday to speak at a revival in Charlotte, NC.
That inspired community leaders to invite Mordecai Hamm to preach at another revival.
At that revival Billy Graham gave his life to Christ and has led thousands to Christ.

Most of us recognize the name Billy Graham.
Anybody remember the name of the first guy I mention in this list of preachers.

God obviously used Kimball's work and witness in a very special way.

And know this, God wants and will use your life, your witness,
and even your donkey, in a very special way as well.

For now the stones need not cry out, for you and I will.
Let's stand and do just that by singing, Hosanna, Hosanna.