

Faith Talk - Mar. 29, 2026

Series: Palm Sunday

Sermon: The Donkey: Jesus is the Divine King Who Offers Divine Peace

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11; Romans 5:1

Matthew 21:4-5

This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: Tell Daughter Zion, "See, your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Sermon Summary

This Palm Sunday sermon from Matthew 21:1-11 uses the often-overlooked donkey as the lens for understanding Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. The message emphasizes that this animal wasn't randomly chosen but specifically fulfilled Zechariah 9:9's prophecy of the Messiah arriving "gentle and mounted on a donkey." The donkey is divine fulfillment, revealing our divine King who offers divine peace.

The sermon explains the cultural significance of Jesus riding a donkey rather than a warhorse. Kings rode horses when conquering, but donkeys when bringing peace. The young, unriden colt of a donkey was set apart for sacred use, and remarkably, these donkeys have hairlines shaped like a cross.

While crowds shouted "Hosanna" hoping for political deliverance from Rome, Jesus came to offer something greater: peace between sinful humanity and a holy God through His upcoming sacrifice on the cross (Romans 5:1). The donkey serves as a visual reminder that Jesus is the divine King fulfilling divine prophecy to offer divine peace with God.

When you look at the donkey, you are reminded that Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God.

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. The crowds wanted Jesus to be a political liberator from Rome, but He came to offer peace between humanity and God. In what ways do we sometimes want Jesus to fix our earthly problems while missing His greater spiritual purposes?
2. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, he was perfectly fulfilling the prophecy of the coming King who would bring peace. Share how this encouraged your faith and assurance as a follower of Christ.
3. Romans 5:1 says we "have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." How does understanding that your relationship with God has moved from hostility to peace affect how you approach daily life and struggles?

Conversations with Students

1. The sermon emphasizes that the donkey's story isn't about us being humble servants but about Jesus being the divine King. Why is it important to keep the focus on who Jesus is rather than making everything about what we should do?
2. Jesus could have chosen any way to enter Jerusalem, but He specifically fulfilled prophecy by riding a donkey. What does this tell you about how seriously God takes His promises?
3. The crowds praised Jesus one day and called for His crucifixion days later. What causes people to turn away from Jesus when He doesn't meet their expectations? How can you guard against this in your own faith?

Conversations with Kids

1. Do you remember the phrase you said with Pastor Brian about the donkey? (Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God.) What did you enjoy most about the donkey in today's sermon?
2. Donkeys have a cross shape in their fur! When you see a donkey or think about Palm Sunday (or Donkey Sunday!), what should you remember about Jesus?
3. The children in Jesus' time shouted "Hosanna!" (Save us!) to Jesus. What does it mean that Jesus saves us?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the Triumphal Entry that marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week in human history. We're grateful for the donkey that carried Jesus, a humble animal chosen to fulfill Your divine prophecy and reveal Jesus as the divine King who offers divine peace.

We ask for help in understanding the peace You offer through Christ. Forgive us for the times we've wanted Jesus to fix our earthly circumstances while missing the greater gift of peace with You. Help us to see that reconciliation with You is more valuable than any political deliverance or worldly comfort. We commit to proclaiming, like the crowds and the children, "Jesus is the Savior who brings us peace with God." As we journey through Holy Week toward the cross and resurrection, let us deepen our understanding of what it cost Jesus to make peace between God and us. May we never take for granted that we have moved from enemies to friends of God through His sacrifice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Holy Week Daily Prayer

We encourage you to set aside 10 minutes each day to read through that day's Scripture. Meditate on what it tells you about the character of God, and pray for yourself, your family, and our church to reflect the priorities of the Kingdom of God.

March 29: Psalm 100:2, **March 30:** Hebrews 13:15, **March 31:** Psalm 29:2, **April 1:** Romans 12:1, **April 2:** John 4:23-24, **April 3:** Matthew 4:10, **April 4:** Psalm 96:9