

Donkeys and Stones

Why in the world didn't Jesus sneak silently into Jerusalem, that symbolic city where kings, zealots and religious elites clamored to be relevant and powerful? Why didn't Jesus stay in the obscure villages, doing his good deeds and teaching the peasant crowds? Why didn't Jesus camp out on the Mount of Olives and pray and weep and pray some more? Why didn't Jesus write a book or endorse a product or start a business; *The Art of Healing, LLC*, JC ben Joseph, CEO?

Why did Jesus orchestrate a protest, a political spectacle, a satirical slap-in-the-face of Caesar, Pilot, Herod and every violence-wielding, law-and-order leader throughout history?

Why? Because it is Donkey Time! It is get-on-your-feet and sit-on-your-ass, upside-down kingdom time. No war horses here. No royal carpets or brass trumpets. No security detail or advanced announcement. No tear-gas and flash-bangs to make his way to the temple. Just a prophet with a vision, and a donkey, and a voice.

"Tell the people to shut up!" the nervous leaders announced. Don't make a scene. Don't draw attention. Don't incite a riot. Don't, just don't, please don't get the authorities involved! We're warning you!

"But then the stones will cry out!"¹

It's always the stones.

Water from stones, stones turned into pillows and pillars, stones of remembrance, covenant-bearing stones, heart-stones, key-stones and corner-stones, stones dropped from the hands of judges, crumbling temple-stones, rolled-away tombstones, and New Jerusalem gemstones.²

Indeed, the stones will cry out because God's Word will not be hidden, not under a stone, not under the foot of violence, not under the roof of a church.

God of donkeys and stones, in this time of turmoil, chaos, hatred, fear and violence, teach us your ways which are not the ways of principalities and powers. Grant us wisdom in the midst of confusion. Teach us courage in the face of opposition. Teach us love in the midst of division. Offer us grace in the midst of guilt. Guide us toward hope in the season of despair. Lead us in the way of Christ, our rock and our redeemer, a sure foundation today and always. Amen.

Doug Luginbill, June 3, 2020

¹ Luke 19

² Exodus 17, Genesis 28, Joshua 4, Deuteronomy 5, Jeremiah 31, Psalm 118/Matthew 21, John 8, Matthew 24, Matthew 28, Revelation 21