

**KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025
SERMON: WE ARE DONKEYS
SCRIPTURE: LUKE 19:28-40
REV. IRENE WILLIS HASSAN**

LUKE 19:28-40

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 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. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Sermon: We Are Donkeys

I. INTRODUCTION: THE DONKEY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem, the climax of His earthly ministry.

- He asks the disciples to go get a young, unriden donkey—a mundane, seemingly unimportant creature.
- And yet Jesus says:
 “Because the Lord needs it” (v. 31).
 Stop and sit in that. The Lord needs it.
 God. Needing. A donkey?

Big Idea: You are the donkey.

You are neither perfect nor worthless. You are a vessel. God needs you—because He wants you. And yet, God doesn’t need you—because He is God.

II. THE DONKEY: A PICTURE OF GOD’S MUNDANE YET MIRACULOUS LOVE (vv. 28–35)

- The donkey is *tied up*. Bound. Unused. Unridden.
 Sound familiar? How often are we bound—by fear, shame, addiction, doubt, comparison?
- And yet, Jesus says:
 “Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you why you are untying it, say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”
 - God chooses the simple to carry the glorious.
 - God uses the mundane to accomplish the miraculous.

Application:

You are not special because of your ability—you’re special because God chooses you. You are not loved because you’re perfect—you’re loved because God sees you, tied up, and calls you anyway.

III. GOD NEEDS YOU. AND ALSO... GOD DOESN’T NEED YOU. (v. 40)

- The crowds are shouting “*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!*”
- The Pharisees tell Jesus to shut them up.
- And Jesus says,
 “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

God will get His praise.
 God will complete His story.
 God will move—with or without you.
 And yet... He *invites* you in.

He *wants* your partnership.
He *longs* for your “yes.”

This is the paradox of divine love:

- God doesn't need your obedience to be God.
- But He still longs for your obedience because He knows that's where your freedom lies.

IV. WE ARE THE DONKEYS: MUNDANE, MESSY, MIRACULOUS

- The donkey wasn't clean.
- The donkey didn't know the destination.
- The donkey didn't choose the King—it was chosen.

And yet, it carried Christ into Jerusalem.

It bore the weight of glory—because it simply responded to the call.

We are the same:

- Not always noble.
- Sometimes stubborn.
- Often messy.
- But invited into God's unfolding plan.

God doesn't force us.

But He welcomes us.

And when we refuse, the stones cry out, but His heart still breaks for the silence in us.

V. APPLICATION: WHAT KIND OF DONKEY ARE YOU?

Are you tied up?

- Jesus is asking to untie you today. Will you let Him?

Are you being ridden toward a purpose you don't understand?

- Trust the Rider. He knows where He's going.

Are you refusing to speak out?

- Be warned: the rocks will cry out, and you'll miss the miracle.

VI. CONCLUSION: GOD'S LOVE IS PERFECT BECAUSE IT INVITES WITHOUT DEMANDING

- God's love is powerful enough to go on without you, but tender enough to wait for your yes.
- God doesn't need you to prove anything—He wants you to participate in everything.

- The donkey carried Christ. Not because it deserved to, but because it was available.

So... You are a donkey.

And that's exactly what God is looking for.

CLOSING CHALLENGE:

What if the holiest thing you can be today is simply available?

Not brilliant. Not brave. Just untied... and ready to carry Jesus.