



St Paul's Dorking Small Groups – 29th August 2010

Creature Comforts: Lessons from the Donkey: Luke 19:28-48

Introduction:

Being a good servant is often seen as a positive thing in Christian circles. It appears that is the model that Jesus offers us. Yet in John 10 he highlights one key difference between those who are 'servants' and those who are owners of the kingdom. Too often we are happy to keep ourselves in the mindset of servanthood completely missing the point that we are called to be so much more than that. Jesus expresses complete humility through riding a donkey, washing feet and ultimately the cross. Yet He is at ease with 'being royalty' and calls us "friends" and "brothers and sisters." The challenge for us is learning to serve as humbly as he does with the heart and mind of royalty.

Bible Passages:

Look at the Palm Sunday story in Luke 19.

If Jesus was doing this today, what mode of transport would reflect similar values?

The Pharisees were 'understandably' concerned at all the problems that could arise: Zealots causing trouble, irreligious riff-raff, emotional hype, a loss of genuine gravitas to Passover, Jesus' complete disregard for the established cultural norms of the temple community. Perhaps they were asking "Surely if it was God, He wouldn't be in the midst of something like this that was chaotic and could go wrong in so many ways?"

Have you ever wondered the same thing?

Public figures are aware that the things they associate themselves with convey something about themselves. Sometimes the media pin more on that thing that was originally intended. Jesus was deliberate in his choice of a donkey. Consider the donkey.

What does it convey about Jesus? What things to do with a donkey are not relevant?

What can we learn from this?

Look at the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15.

Two sons fail to connect with the fullness of their father's love for them and his heart and vision. One runs away to something 'more exciting.' The other stays behind in begrudging servanthood.

Which son do you relate to?

How might the returned younger son behave if he is unable to embrace sonship?

How might the returned younger son behave he embraces sonship but still fails to grasp his father's heart and vision?

How might the older son end up if he continues to fail to grasp his father's heart and vision?

Look up these passages and consider what they tell us about who we should be and how we should behave

Colossians 3:23

Philippians 2:5-9

1 Peter 2:9

Vision for what you do:

A story is told of three men who were asked what they were doing. One said "I'm digging ditches." The next said "I'm laying foundations." The third said "I'm building a cathedral". All doing the same task but all with different attitudes. Take it in turns to list some of the tasks you perform. (At home, for the church family, at work). Together consider how that task is not simply 'digging ditches' rather 'building a cathedral'. Consider how that task is related to God's kingdom.

How do we identify when we are engaged in something that is not worth the effort?

Icebreaker: Appointed : What's the strangest/worst/best job you've ever been 'appointed' to do (paid or voluntary)? If you could choose a 'job for a day' what would be some of your choices? Which animal would you happy to be associated with?

Additional discussion:

Do you have the mindset of royalty?

Do you have the mindset of a servant?

How do we grow our connection with God's heart for the world?

Should we hold off on serving until we get our attitude right?