

4/1/12

The Lord Needs It
The Master Planner or spur of the moment

Open: April Fools Court Case
Gary Ollett to read story – “The Lord’s Request”

“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Ps. 118:24 (KJV)

I. The Plan

Read [Mark 11:1-11](#)

Also see this account in: [Matt. 21](#) - [Luke 19](#) - [John 12](#)

John Mark, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, records this account in his regular, direct and to the point manner.

But if we’re not careful we might miss the point Jesus made that day ... just as they did.

This day had been meticulously planned

Not in frantic lists and double checks such as is the case for one of our dignitaries who visits a town – state or nation

When the U.S. President travels – tons of planning goes in - of security - clothing - speeches –scheduling food burdensome overkill attempting to account for every detail.

This was not the kind of planning Jesus made for his entry into Jerusalem

Let’s take a closer look at the days leading up to that day

Six days before the Passover, Jesus was the guest honor in the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha ([John 12](#)) the same Lazarus that Jesus raised from the dead – that Lazarus

Mary will break a precious vile of expensive perfume - pour it over Jesus feet and dry his feet with her hair. (Anointing for death)

But everything else seems to just happen – as if unrehearsed - almost as if Jesus was just making it up as He went along

But at the same time I want to emphasize that this day was planned and arranged for by the God of the Universe right down to giving specifics on when how it would happen - documented by His prophets hundreds of years before it happened.

Let me give you a few examples:

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (500 years before)

Daniel 9:26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself ..."
(550 years before the day)

Ps. 118:24 (KJV) "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
(1,000 years before)

God's planning for that day – was connected to Jesus' birth, life, ministry and death.

Jesus' birth for example seems almost chaotic – a last minute trip by a full term woman arriving at a place where there was no place to stay except an animals stable –manger

Yet the details were prophesied hundreds of years before they happened
God is the Master Planner

Let's start with the colt

Jesus instructions – would have been puzzling to anyone other than two of his disciples sent on this mission (same guys who were told the fish with a coin in its mouth)

Go into the village you will find a colt never yet ridden – untie it and bring him to me – oh and if anyone asks you what you are doing ... like why are you sealing my donkey? Just tell them the Lord has need of it and will soon return it.

Doesn't look like much preparation or does it?

Consider words of Jesus to his followers *-Take no worry for tomorrow for tomorrow there's sufficient evil for today to be concerned about.*

The triumphant entry into Jerusalem – is the crest of the wave for Jesus' life

Estimated crowds of 100,000 crowd the streets, screaming Hosanna - declaring him to be the One and only – The ***Mashach*** The Anointed One - the Messiah

"Glory to God in the Highest Heaven - Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the LORD!"

At the same time he is fully aware that this is also the last week of his earthly life and will face death at the hands of the Romans in the most gruesome of all executions – He knows when and how he will die. (Imagine if you knew the day and way you would die)

All of this has to be weighing in his heart and head. Jesus is not a man without emotions – completely human experiencing all the same things we do

While managing all of this, you would think this would be his singular focus – but check out his actions just before and on the way to Jerusalem that day

Read [Mark 10:46 - 52](#)

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem passing through the city of Jericho a thriving metropolis – the Las Vegas of its day. He's being mobbed by the crowd when he stops for a man named Bartimaeus.

The blind man is crying out so Jesus can hear him over the noise and distraction of the throng.

"Son of David have mercy on me"

Blindness in that day – was thought to be a curse from God because of sin.

The attitude is evident by others ... shut up!

*Chinese proverb "The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it."

But Jesus calls for him – watch the details that Mark records here –

Bart threw his coat aside – he wasn't going to need it again

Remember – Jesus is on a mission – Get to Jerusalem – destiny awaits the reason he was born

Jesus asks him - *"What do you want me to do for you?"*

Didn't he already know?

Of course – He wanted to hear him say it – just like He wants you and I to come to him and ask in faith believing

"My rabbi," Rabboni the blind man said, *"I want to see."*

"Go for your faith has healed you." Bartimaeus is instantly healed but where does he go? - He follows Jesus down the road (on the way to Jerusalem)

Bartimaeus was already declaring him to be the Messiah by calling him Son of David

→ **Jesus was never too busy for people** – nothing has changed in that respect
There is never a time that we cannot approach the Lord – We get ourselves so wound up in our plans and focus that we fail to make time for Him
That's something that's got to change – starting today

Read "I'll Take Him" from Daily Bread by David Roper

II. The Purpose

Are God's ways random or haphazard? Of course not –

Isaiah 55:8 writes *"My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are my ways your ways."*

Jerusalem was a two mile walk from Bethany - Jesus sends out the disciples for the colt.

Why a donkey?

A sign of humility? Not today Jesus will allow the people to openly recognize him as Messiah
The branches will be cut and spread in the path way to entrance of the city.

Hosannas of over 100 thousand voices ring – those who had been healed – Bartimaeus is there
The former leper, the crippled, Lazarus and so many others who witnessed and spread the news

The people are giddy – anticipating his arrival for Passover

The crowd gets so crazy that his enemies plotting his death, Pharisees beg him to tell the people to stop shouting Hosanna – because they too know what it means! (Rock will cry out – Rock Concert)

This is the Day!

The donkey - not a stallion was the sign of a king who was coming on a mission of Peace

Romans 5:8 “While we still sinners Christ (Messiah) died for us.”

Jesus had not come to conquer Rome as the people hoped but to bring them peace with the God

Even greater - Jesus riding in on that colt was— a message by God of the universe to the entire world

The road to peace was being offered by God through Jesus Messiah

Reconciliation with God would be completed by the death of his only begotten son who would offer himself up the perfect atoning sacrifice for our sin.

People of that day were excited but missed what God wanted for them - God is a God of Second Chances - What about us?