

Let's Just Do It!

Mark 11:1-6
Charlie Brackett

Jesus and His apostles drew near Jerusalem from the East. They were in the vicinity of Bethany and Bethpage, two villages just outside Jerusalem, when Jesus said to two of them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here."

In Matthew's account of this at chapter 21, we learn that the Lord told them of more than a colt; He also mentioned the colt's mother, a donkey, requesting that both be loosed and brought. Mark, no doubt, mentioned only the colt because the Lord's purpose for the animal could be served by only a colt, one on which no one had previously ridden. It is logical that such a young animal would still be with its mamma, therefore, both were to be brought.

So the two selected disciples went. And, just as the Lord had said, they found the colt and its mother tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed them. Some standing close by inquired, "What are you doing, loosing them?" The two answered just as the Lord told them to do, and they were satisfied. They let them go. The disciples then brought the donkey and her colt to Jesus, threw their clothes over the colt, and the Lord sat on it. With this picture in our minds, let's make a couple of observations.

First, Jesus was able to see a donkey and her colt tied next to a door in another village. Not only could He see things not in His presence, but He could see into the future. He knew that His disciples would be challenged when they loosed the animals and knew what must be said to satisfy the challengers. Who but divinity could do what Jesus did on this occasion? Sure, someone might make a lucky guess, but when Jesus made such assertions and predictions He was never wrong. Humans don't guess that well.

Then, I'm impressed with the two disciples Jesus sent, whoever they were. They still had much to learn and a lot of growing in faith to do, but here they asked no questions and displayed no doubt. They didn't whine, "We're too tired, Lord. Send someone else." And they didn't argue, "Are you sure they will be tied up as You say?" What if someone sets them loose before we get to them?" And they didn't speculate, "Surely someone will think we are stealing them, and when we say to them, 'The Lord has need of them,' they may say, 'What Lord?' What if they have us arrested?"

Isn't there a lesson here for us? Let's face it! We sure can argue and whine and question sometimes about doing the Lord's will. Why should we be so filled with doubt? He is divine! He is our Lord! It is His to instruct and send. It is ours to listen and obey. As the tennis shoe ad says, "Let's just do it!"