

The Master Requests

Mark 11:3

Charlie Brackett

Jesus sent two of His disciples to a nearby village where they found a donkey and her colt tied next to a certain door. They were to release the animals and bring them to the Lord. Jesus knew they would be challenged, perhaps by the owner himself. Verse 3 in the New King James version says, the Lord instructed them with these words: "And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them here." Other translations - the American Standard and Revised Standard, for example - render this a little differently. "And if any say unto you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of them; and straightway he will send them back hither.'"

I'm not certain which is the more correct, though the latter seems more appropriate to the character of Jesus and the situation at hand. Did you catch the difference? The first seems to be saying the Lord needs the animals, and at that word, the owner immediately sends the disciples along with his animals. The second seems to be saying the Lord needs the animals, and as soon as He is finished with them, He will send them back again. In other words, Jesus tells His disciples to reassure the owner that his animals will be quickly returned to him.

Our Lord was never one to run roughshod over the rights of others. He didn't take another's property though He had, and has, a supreme right to do so. He is the Creator and supreme owner of all. Though He has all authority and has the right to command, He was never dictatorial. He always treated others with compassion and love.

Such a picture of our Savior makes us stand in awe of His magnificence. What a Savior He is! Is He your Savior? Don't you want Him to be?