

Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – March 28, 2010

The Talking Donkey....

“Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done, that you have struck me these three times?”Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes , and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His sword drawn in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on His face.” Numbers 22:28 & 31

Balak the king of Moab had sent for Baalam the prophet. He wanted Baalam to curse the children of Israel and bring all manner of woe upon them. The king of Moab wanted them out of his life and out of the way. Curiously enough, Baalam was responding to the summons of the king. He was on the way to do his bidding.

Baalam’s donkey had a different idea. She could see that the pathway of Baalam was obstructed by the Angel of the LORD, who had a drawn sword ready to do Baalam harm, even if Baalam had no idea what was taking place. Each time Baalam’s progress was impeded by the donkey he struck her in anger and frustration. He had places to go, people to see, things to do...and she was keeping him from accomplishing his objectives. Good thing for Baalam that she did! When the LORD opened his eyes Baalam found out that the donkey had played a key role in saving him from being the recipient of God’s wrath. He learned God had other plans for His people and instead of cursing them Baalam was to open his mouth and usher forth the oracles of God’s blessings upon His people.

Today our thoughts turn to the work of another donkey...and a colt the foal of a donkey. Humble and unassuming the Savior of the World enters into Jerusalem on these beasts of burden to bless His people. Triumphant are the cries of the people who welcome Him...”Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!” Fervent is their prayer: “Hosanna(which means “save now”!) to the Son of David”. And good for them, as well as for us, that He hears the cry for mercy and answers by means of His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. Who would have thought that the Lord of

all creation would arrive triumphantly on a lowly donkey. Who would ever guess that He would save the world by bowing His head in death...but that's exactly what took place.

Things aren't always as they seem. The things of God don't always make sense to human reason. God has His way of working things out for good, if only we will trust Him and bend ourselves to being called according to His purpose. In the stubbornness of a talking donkey God revealed His will to Baalam and brought blessing to His people. In the way of the cross God demonstrated His power over sin, death, hell, and devil. Ultimately, through the suffering and death of His Son God blesses His people with forgiveness, life, and salvation. Foolishness? Certainly it is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us it is the power of salvation! Hosanna indeed! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the LORD!

- Remember: The crosses and trials of life God can and does use to bless us and strengthen our faith. Be a student of the Word. Only knowledge of His Word will allow us in faith to patiently await the revelation of God's ultimate purpose.
- Remember: God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways to be blessings to others as they share with others the Word of God through their own words and deeds. How is God using you today?

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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