

“A Chorus of Colts, Cloaks, and Craggs”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Luke 19:28-40 NRSVue

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷Now as he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen,

³⁸saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.”

⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.

Discussion Questions:

1. Questions or comments about the passage?
2. Do you think Jesus made previous arrangements or was he predicting where the colt was and what people would say to the disciples?
3. The prophet Zechariah foretold centuries before Christ:
 - a. *Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion. Your king comes to you, triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey and on a colt. . . and he shall command peace to the nations.*
 - b. How has Jesus fulfilled this Scripture?
4. What do donkeys teach us about Jesus’ character?
5. In what ways today do we attempt to convince Jesus to mount a war steed instead of donkey?
6. **David Hawkins** in his book *Power vs. Force*, shows the contrast between power and force. What do you think of his assessments?

Power	Force
Humble	Arrogant
Unassuming	Has all the answers
Supports life	Exploits life
Attracts	Repels
Serves others	Self-serving
Stays true to values	Will violate values for gain
Relies on truth	Relies on rhetoric and propaganda
Unifies	Polarizes
Appeals to our higher nature	Appeals to our lower nature

Henry Nouwen once said that the way to power involves “not upward mobility, but downward mobility.” How do we live this out in our family? In church? In society?