

Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-11

We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining — they just shine. —Dwight L. Moody

The donkey is a humble beast, right?
Wrong.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, it is kings who ride on donkeys.

That may sound strange — especially in light of countless Palm Sunday sermons we've heard. Yet, if we compared a few Palm Sunday terms in the media, we might be surprised.

For example, if we compare references to “king” vs. “servant” — “king” wins every time. Or, try “war” vs. “peace” — there's more buzz about war than peace on both the Internet in general and in news stories.

And, more to our point, “horse” has it all over “donkey.”

Yet, in 1 Kings 1:32-34, an elderly King David summons the religious leaders, commanding them to make arrangements for Solomon's coronation. He instructs them to “have my son Solomon ride on my own mule.”

A royal mule? What's that all about?

David was a hill-country chieftain, and Solomon a hill-country chieftain's son. Although, years before, this scrappy warrior had become king of all Israel, he never forgot where he came from.

King David's royal mount was not a horse. A horse is for those who dwell on the plains, who traverse highways broad and straight. A king like David, who got his start leading bands of raiders from cave to cave along rocky trails, preferred a sure-footed mule.

This is why, in later times, those who foretold the coming of a new king, a Messiah, to assume the throne of David, always had that monarch riding into Jerusalem on a donkey.

The Roman overlords might have been amused by this somewhat comical sight — but Jewish zealots who knew their history would not have missed the symbolism.

—Timothy Merrill, HomileticsOnline.com

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for presenting yourself not as a warlord, but as the Prince of Peace. May I also remember that it is more important to serve than to be served. Amen.



Daily Bible Readings — Sunday: Numbers 18-20; **Monday:** Numbers 21-24; **Tuesday:** Numbers 25-27; **Wednesday:** Numbers 28-30; **Thursday:** Numbers 31-33; **Friday:** Numbers 34-36; **Saturday:** Psalms 31-32

SAME ... BUT DIFFERENT

According to some definitions, a *homophone* is a word with the *same pronunciation* as, but *different meaning* than, another word. Thus, homophones come in pairs (at least). However, some remarkable homophones come in triples. Identify the first homophone using the clue provided. Then write two more homophones. We have done No. 1 for you.

DEFINITION OR CLUE	ANSWER (First Homophone)	Second Homophone	Third Homophone
1. Receptacle for cremains	URN	ERNE	EARN
2. In 1918, a strain of this disease killed 18 million.			
3. The number of corners near Shiprock, NM			
4. A medieval craftsmen organization			
5. Beef is a form of this.			
6. Sacred			
7. Two of something			
8. A contraction of he will			
9. A painter's paints are on it.			
10. Destitute			
11. A smaller version of a highway			
12. A cord stretched tight			
13. Also			
14. Not here, but ...			
15. Second person possessive pronoun			
16. This duct carries blood back to the heart.			
17. He walked his daughter down this.			
18. First person personal pronoun			
19. Wild, tusked porcine beast			
20. A penny is one of these.			
21. You do this to bread dough.			
22. Precipitation			
23. She regretted, or did this, the day she married him.			
24. Short for, say, the tenor version of this			
25. The Spanish word for donkey			

ANSWERS: 2. Flu, flue, flew; 3. Four, fore, for; 4. Guild, gilled, gild; 5. Meat, mete, meet; 6. Holy, holey, wholly; 7. Pair, pear, pare; 8. He'll, heel, heal; 9. Palette, palate, pallet; 10. Poor, pore, pour; 11. Road, rode, rowed; 12. Taut, taught, tot; 13. Too, to, two; 14. There, their, they're; 15. Your, you're, yore; 16. Vein, vain, vane; 17. Aisle, I'll, isle; 18. I, eye, aye; 19. Boar, bore, boor; 20. Cent, scent, sent; 21. Knead, need, kneed; 22. Rain, rein, reign; 23. Rued, rude, rood; 24. Sax, sacs, sacks; 25. Burro, borough, burrow.