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 Bridgeway Community Church  
 Series: PRECIOUS  
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**PRECIOUS:  
 “Precious Cargo”**

Hello Bridgeway, what a blessing to return and share God’s word with you all. I had so much fun last time that I had to do it again.

Dr. Anderson, as always, thank you for the opportunity and for trusting me with such a wonderful group of people.

To all of those online and to our Owings Mills Campus, I love you and am excited to minister to you on this day.

Church, I am tasked with talking to you about “A PRECIOUS CARGO.”

As I prayed in preparation for today’s message, I was drawn to a familiar scripture. A few verses in the Bible that many of you possibly read at least once a year caught my attention. It is the story of the “Triumphal Entry,” when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a Donkey.

While this scripture is often preached during Palm Sunday, I felt the urge to share additional thoughts today.

Turn with me to **Luke 19:28-36 (NIV)**:

*<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ”*

*<sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” <sup>34</sup> They replied, “The Lord needs it.”*

*<sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.*

<sup>37</sup> *When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:*

<sup>38</sup> *“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”*

<sup>39</sup> *Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”* <sup>40</sup> *“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

This story takes effect during the last few days leading up to the crucifixion.

Jesus being omniscient, knew exactly how everything was about to play out. In just a few more chapters, Jesus pleaded to God the Father to “take the cup away from me.” This is his last week before he is beaten, ridiculed, and tortured. This is the last week of death row, and He is about to face his death sentence officially.

Can you imagine His EMOTIONS? Can you imagine His AGONY? Can you imagine His PAIN? The scriptures describe what Jesus was going through: *“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground” (Luke 22:44 NIV).*

In the middle of this situation, we experience the context of this scripture!

Even in his PAIN, AGONY, and SUFFERING...

- Jesus remains faithful to His missional assignment.
- He remained focused on fulfilling an old testament prophecy.
- Jesus understood His **DIVINE MISSION**, and nothing would stop Him.

Jesus, in his omnipotence, had a DONKEY on his mind; scripture describes him as a COLT, a baby donkey. This is mind-blowing to me.

How could it be that during one of the most challenging times of Jesus’ life, he took the time to think of an animal’s *geographical location and condition*?

He could be thinking about anything else, but NO –He stops everything he was doing to identify details that only HE, the SON of GOD, could SEE and UNDERSTAND.

**Jesus instructed his disciples and said,** *“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here”* (vs. 30 NIV).

This verse gives me HOPE; it encourages my soul.

Jesus is about to face the worst experience of his life, and he chooses to think of this animal's PURPOSE and ASSIGNMENT.

Which brings me to my first point...

## I. GOD SEES YOU AND HAS YOU ON HIS MIND.

He could be thinking of anything else, but HE SEES YOU!

In the middle of your frustration, in the middle of your pain, in the middle of your craziness –HE SEES YOU!

I know you don't see yourself, I know you are probably ashamed, I know you keep on running and hiding, but –HE SEES YOU!

- HE SEES YOU in your sleep,
- HE SEES YOU in your at work,
- HE SEES YOU in your sin,
- HE SEES YOU in your brokenness,
- HE SEES YOU in your addiction,
- HE SEES YOU at your worst,
- HE SEES YOU in your trouble,
- HE SEES YOU in your frustration,
- HE SEES YOU in your pain,
- HE SEES YOU in your loneliness,
- and HE still says, "GO AND BRING HIM/HER HERE!"

Jesus told his disciples once you get to the village, you will know it's him because the "*colt is tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here*" (vs. 30 NIV).

I thought of the phrase "*no one has ever ridden*," I knew I was supposed to talk about it, but I wasn't sure in what context until Dr. Anderson spoke about Jonah and the Whale last week. It then occurred to me... A donkey is supposed to be a cargo animal.

- He is supposed to carry cargo and/or transport humans.
- But this particular donkey had never functioned in his purpose.
- He was labeled a donkey but had yet to fulfill his assignment.

As a colt (younger donkey), he waited for his turn to carry a PRECIOUS CARGO.

I was in Romania some months ago with Pastor Jared and the mission team. While at an orphanage, I saw a donkey and thought to myself: “I want to mention this donkey as a sermon illustration in a sermon someday!” Pastor Jared said to me, “Why don’t you take a picture or video?” So I did.

Now, I want to illustrate for you what I think the donkey in our scripture text for today was thinking to himself. And to illustrate it, I am going to quote a few lines from the song of a lyric genius—Marshall “Eminem” Mathers...

*“You better lose yourself in the music,  
The moment, you own it, you better never let it go,  
You only get one shot,  
Do not, miss your chance to blow,  
This opportunity comes once in a lifetime, yo!”*  
(Marshall “Eminem” Mathers)

Animals of this kind require time for “breaking in.” This caught my imagination. This donkey was yet “broken in,” and he only had one shot. Yet it was the Lord Jesus who broke him in and broke him through to his assignment and his purpose!

And what an incredible assignment! Yet the donkey did not so much as flinch as Jesus rode him. I can envision him thinking, “I am carrying **PRECIOUS CARGO**, and I can’t mess this up.”

The Lord was not riding a donkey because this was his custom. This donkey was called to take the King of kings and Lord of lords into the holy city— this donkey was called to transport the Savior of the World into his own divine mission in Jerusalem! Yet if you understand the scriptures, you know that Jesus didn’t ride in on a donkey because he was tired: Instead, it was to fulfill an Old Testament prophecy!

- God said, “I need a donkey that has purpose!”
- “I need a donkey that has a mission!”
- “I need a donkey that has an assignment!”
- God is looking for you and he is saying, “I need YOU!”

In the Book of Zechariah it was prophesied: *“Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9 NIV).*

Which brings me to point #2...

## II. YOUR PURPOSE IS GREATER THAN YOUR CONDITION!

I want you to hear this, because I am a huge advocate and believer in the underdog. I am an advocate for those who are fearful, insecure, confused, and in disbelief that God can choose them. Because that was me! When God called me, I was so insecure and unsure, I walked around thinking I was crazy to believe that God could call me and have a special assignment for me.

- I would say, “Lord if you only knew my stinking thinking...”
- “If you only knew my baggage”
- “If you only knew the ways I was tied up in anger, suffering, in my situation”

Church, I want you to know that you are valuable to God’s mission and purpose. He has chosen you to carry HIS presence wherever you go.

He sees you, sees your situation, and has you on his mind. He is not shocked by your lifestyle or your condition. At his worst, he is still thinking of you.

- *“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”*  
(Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV).

You know what this means? It means God is working on you. He sees something in you. I understand this as a contractor. I inspect buildings and I can look beyond their present condition and see what they can become—their true potential.

The Bible tells us that when we are saved we become Temples of the Holy Spirit in whom God lives—we carry the divine presence with us everywhere we go. And no matter your background or present condition, God says to you just like that donkey: “Bring him here! Bring her here!”

Which takes me to point #3...

Are you ready for it?

### III. GOD TAKES YOU FROM NATURAL TO SUPERNATURAL

The Book of Romans says, *“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you” (Romans 8:11 NIV).*

I used to be mortal, but now I have an assignment! I used to be broken, but now there is a Person inside of me who is supernatural!

God is taking you from the NATURAL into the SUPERNATURAL realm. The problem is that we keep stumbling in the natural realm. This is just a transition to fulfill God’s divine assignment in my life.

He used a donkey, and God wants to use YOU.

Look at the honor and homage that is displayed in this passage. Now, the honor isn’t necessarily directed toward the donkey. But it was because of the precious cargo that the donkey carried. It says in Luke 19...

- *“They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road” (Luke 19:35-36 NIV).*

God took a tied-up donkey and used him to transport the Savior of the World.

They spread GARMENTS; they spread their cloaks...

- This was a sign of honor and respect.
- This was a sign of royalty.
- Although they were doing this for Jesus and not the donkey, He was still a recipient by association.
- He was carrying a PRECIOUS CARGO.

How is it that this donkey who was tied up with no purpose is now strutting down the road like, “Heyyyy! Started from the bottom, now I’m here!”

I don’t know how God does it... and I don’t need to. What I do know is that we are PRECIOUS CARGO...

What I do know is that the only reason this building is anointed is because you are in it...

- *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).*

You are God’s handiwork! He’s fixing you, he’s taking things out of your life, so that YOU can fulfill GOD’S assignment.

#### IV. CONCLUSION & PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Finally, I want to give you three practical applications...

1. **Recognize that God created you the way you are and that you are needed in the Body of Christ. If Jesus needed the donkey, what makes us, “the church,” think that we don’t need each other?**

I know we have spiritual low self-esteem. But God wants you to be a co-heir. He wants you to be an ambassador of Christ. God wants you to be part of his missional assignment here on earth!

2. **Let others help you. If you notice, the donkey didn’t untie himself. It took the disciple’s efforts to let him go. Seek all the help you can to get loose.**

Pay attention to this. This is the hard one. When we at Bridgeway look at Sunday attendance versus activity here throughout the week, people aren’t taking advantage of all the opportunities for growth and discipleship that we offer...

- Get connected with the Mental Health and Faith Network on the planning center for resources and support
- Reach out to our CARE Ministry for referrals and to learn about Tuesday Night Alive next semester.

There are so many other opportunities you can check out on Church Center! We want to help equip you for your divine assignment and point you in the right direction.

And finally, **Practical Application #3...**

3. **Today, you have the opportunity to make it right. You only have one shot. Don't leave here without accepting Christ or repenting for limiting what God has deposited in you.**

Say to the Lord: *"Jesus, come into my life. I need you. I want to fulfill my assignment. Help me to get right with you and stop limiting you."* Text **"Bridgeway"** to 97000 and someone from our team will reach out to you.

But whatever you do, please don't think you are fulfilling God's assignment for your life by just going to church on Sundays. There is so much more that God has for you! And it's by you getting involved, plugging yourself in, and seeking help that you'll be able to fulfill your purpose.

You are the only Bible that some people will ever read! You have the divine presence inside you! The world should be different because you exist. God bless you, Bridgeway!

*Pray out to close sermon*