

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 11:1-11 ([click to open link](#))

REFLECT:

Whenever I read a novel, it's the little details that help paint the picture in my mind as I journey through the pages. The more vivid the picture that's being painted, the more pages the author needs. Mark uses six of the sixteen chapters (almost 40%) of his Gospel to describe the last week of Jesus' life. This means he really wanted to communicate some stuff about that last week. So every details counts.

Maybe this is the reason why I can't stop thinking about the donkey that no one had ridden before. At first glance, the donkey seems insignificant. A side note in the grander picture. But what if the donkey is more than just Jesus' ride into town. Jesus didn't say it would be nice, he told the disciples to tell anyone who questioned them about it that the Lord NEEDS the donkey. "Need" doesn't seem like an insignificant word. The donkey was necessary, it was central to the event. In fact, it fulfills a prophecy from Zechariah 9:9. Was there anything overtly special about that donkey? Maybe, maybe not, but Jesus needed it.

Have you ever felt like maybe you're the side note? Wondered if you were special or if there was anything significant to you? At first, it can be easy to see ourselves that way, but upon deeper reflection, we begin to see that there's a purpose for our existence. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God created us "to do good works." Psalm 139:14 reminds us that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

What would it look like if you saw yourself not as the insignificant happenstance, but as a necessary part of the story, waiting to be untied and used for God's purposes?

RESPOND:

What ropes are holding you back or keeping you tied to the post? How can you begin to see yourself as necessary to the story, full of purpose? How can you remind yourself daily of how important you are to God's story? Maybe start with a sticky note on your mirror or the dashboard of your car that simply says, "The Lord needs me to do something I've never done before."