

“Your Role As You Witness”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Christmas time is when many hear sermons and other teachings about the Christ Child, and Mary, but today, let's talk about the donkey. You may ask, “What's spiritual about the donkey?” I'm so glad you asked.

The scriptures do not give us details on which animals were present when Mary gave birth, but very likely there was a donkey, a cow, and/or a sheep. So, what is the importance of any farm animal, donkey or otherwise, at Christ's birth? It could not help with the birth, it could not wrap the baby after birth, why would God have his promised Messiah born in a place where animals, instead of people, would more likely be around? Our Heavenly Father has a purpose in all he does, of what purpose was the donkey or other animals at Christ's birth?

Consider: the animals were witnesses. They saw everything that happened. We also are witnesses to what Christ has done in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Foot-
notes:

There may be times that we wonder how could God use us, we are just... us! What purpose could we serve in God's scheme of things? What purpose could a donkey? The same animal that likely carried Mary to Bethlehem, and carried Mary and Jesus on the harrowing escape to Egypt, and whose distant cousin carried Jesus into Jerusalem years later as people shouted “Hosanna!” just days before they shouted, “Crucify Him!” was a silent witness to the miracles God performed about 2000 years ago. We are now witnesses to the miracles God is performing in our time. The difference is that we have voices. We can and need to tell people all around us of the miracles God has performed in our lives and that he's willing to do the same for them.

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Continuing The Process” (Teaching Sketch)

Judges 6:33-40 (NIV)



God has been speaking to Gideon^[a] all through Chapter 6 of Judges as a response to hearing Israel's cry for deliverance from its oppressors. Gideon has been led from a fearful reluctant person to a servant of the Living God as an instrument to bring about an answer to Israel's plight for these seven years. God is continuing the process of deliverance in both Gideon and the whole nation of Israel.

The Spirit Of The Lord
Gideon blows a trumpet, at the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord, summoning the Abiezrites, Father of Help. It is interesting how prominently the sounding of a trumpet figures into moves of God. The sound of trumpets has played a major part in military campaigns and battles throughout history. The trumpet brought others to carry out God's plan through Gideon. God anoints a person to carry out a matter and anoints others to stand with the anointed leader as God

allows the accomplishment of God's own glory.

Checking God's Will

Gideon, even after riding Israel of the pagan altar and prevailing in the purging of pagan things, still wants to be certain God is with him in what he is doing.

Notes:

[a]
Feller;
i.e. Warrior

If You Will

Here in Judges 6:36, Gideon has the understanding straight, even if he is double-checking God's will. “If you will save Israel by my hand....” Gideon had not let pride come into him as he carried out God's plan.

The Fleece

Gideon taking a fleece of wool places it on the threshing floor. Now, the threshing floor is where Gideon had just been working when first approached by God. It is important to note that God meets us where we are as he gives us our instructions to carry out his desired purpose wherever we find ourselves. He causes us, often, to bloom

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Judges 6:33-40 (NIV)

33 Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. 34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites^[a] to follow him. 35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— 37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." 38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with

Notes:

[a]
Father
of Helps

dew." 40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

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right where we are. That is where people already know us. It is in that environment where we can have the most dramatic results as we are anointed by God to do his will.

Check And Double Check

Gideon had no wish to miss God, even after God provided the answer he wished at the first placing of the fleece. Gideon ask God not to be angry with him as he requests yet another test to be certain of god's will in these events.

Adequate witness

Gideon gained adequate witness regarding what he was to do. He tested two times, which scriptures tell us is the number of adequate witness.

When inspired to do a thing we are instructed to "test the spirits." This is what Gideon did. He may have done it out of fear of being mistaken, or he may have done it just to follow scriptural practice, but he did it. God honored Gideon's faithfulness.

God will relate to you in the same way right where you are!



Advent

This is the second week in Advent. This is the week (re-light 1st candle) we light the:

Annunciation Candle

Saying:

"I light the Annunciation Candle or Mary's Candle, which reminds us God sent an angel to tell Mary she would be the mother of the Savior who takes away the sin of the world."

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Song: "Mary Did You Know" or your choice of songs.