

names are never in large print and yet in some quiet, unassuming way, they render great service to our Lord. The man who owned the colt had his heart opened by the Lord. Jesus assured his disciples that the owner would grant them permission to use the animal. Jesus has told his disciples of every age that they might accept help from him and he has promised that when they go in his name that his Spirit will go before. (Who knows) when we teach a Sunday school lesson or speak a word or preach a sermon that God has some great purpose and he will not permit his word to return into him void. For I believe a message that is produced under the guidance of the Spirit of God will find individuals who have been prepared in mind and heart and will be receptive to it.

When Hugh Latimer went to die at the stake he said to his friend, "Be of good cheer, Brother Ridley, for by the grace of God we shall light in England this day such a candle that will not soon be put out." He had a feeling that this message would reach others as God had ordained it.

Therefore, on this Palm Sunday Jesus sent his

A MAN CARRYING A JUG OF WATER

Mark 14:13

This was a common sight in the city as people secured water from the well and then journeyed on to their homes, but one of the main points of emphasis in this story is that instead of a woman, it was a man carrying an earthenware jug or pitcher-like vessel.

I. Palm Sunday

In order that we might get the proper setting of this incident we go back to the day when Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He had instructed his disciples to proceed into a village opposite Bethany where they would find a colt ^{or} ~~securely~~ tied, upon which not even one man ever sat. We must note in these two accounts that here is an unknown man bearing the jug of water and here is also an unknown owner of the donkey. They were instructed to untie the colt and if anyone says, "Why are you doing this?", say, "The Lord is having need of it, and forthwith will send it here again." And they went off and found a colt tied securely to a door outside in the open street and they loosed it and certain of those who were standing there said to them, "What are you doing?"

And they gave them permission. They brought the colt to Jesus and put some of their outer garments upon it. Many of the people spread their garments along the road and many used soft foliage, having cut it out of the country-side. And those who followed kept crying out, "Hosannah".

In this stirring tale of Ben Hur, the Hebrew tells one, I was dreaming of Caesar making his entrance into Jerusalem. He told us that he would proclaim himself as king on the steps of the Temple. I beheld the procession, and I heard their singing, they were waving beautiful palms. I looked for a figure of royalty, a horseman in purple or a chariot with a driver in shining brass. Also guides with spears. It would have been pleasant to have seen a prince of Jerusalem, but instead of a Caesar I saw a man with a woman's face and hair riding on a colt and in tears, the king the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world, and then he laughed.

Who was the owner of the colt on which Jesus rode into the streets of Jerusalem fulfilling Zechariah's prophecy.

This man must have been one of Jesus' unknown friends. We believe there were many people beyond the circle of the immediate twelve disciples who believed in Jesus.

God's cause and kingdom always have unknown and unsuspected friends. In a day when Elijah felt that he was the only prophet or true worshiper of God left, a message came to him, "There are 7000 loyal souls in Israel who have not bowed a knee to Baal."

During the days of Absalom's rebellion it was an unknown woman who was instrumental in saving the life of King David and the lives of two messengers, Johathan and Ahimaaz. A well in her garden; this woman was faithful to her king and concealed the messengers from Absalom's army.

At Corinth Paul was somewhat discouraged with the vice and the heathen worship, but in the night the Lord revealed a vision to him, "Be not afraid for I have much people in this city."

There are persons who are in our churches whose

by women. Many men would have been humiliated beyond measure to procure water for their master's household as did this unknown man. There might be room for some brief discourse at this point on the humiliation of some men today who would never want the neighbors to see them washing the dishes. But here is a man, unknown, bearing a pitcher or a jug of water.

There should be a willingness on the part of individuals to perform the most ordinary tasks of life. I read where at Oberlin College, many years ago, there was one of the professors who spent part of his summer vacation mending the old well-worn carpets with his own hands in order that they might survive another year of hard usage. There seems to be no task too small, humble or unworthy for a fitting and honorable task in the plan of God. Albert Schweitzer is not too great to clean animal pens in the compound of his famous hospital.

Paul, after the shipwreck, may be seen out gathering a bundle of stick for a bon fire by which his friends might warm.

disciples to provide the preparation. This also suggests to us that (there is service which men can render) to him. There are contributions that we need to make. For example, (Peter) gave Jesus the use of his house in Capernaum, and in this house he performed many miracles of healing. There was also the home in Bethany provided for day of retirement and relaxation. There were (fishing boats) which were loaned that he might use them as his pulpit. Jesus needed the friendship of many people during his earthly ministry. The home of (Matthew, Zacheus, Simon the Leper. Jesus had needs which friends can supply. (Zacheus) had wealth to share with the unfortunate. (Luke) had medical skill to use in Jesus' service. There are men today who have gifts which ought to be shared in the kingdom of God. Everyone has some gift or grace to contribute to his kingdom. *Rich Young Ruler - Refused to give - Jesus got along without your gifts, but you are useless.*

The triumphal entry was a significant event in the life of Jesus. Jesus had deliberately planned this way through which he would publicly and officially declare himself the Messiah of the Jewish nation. When his careful planning is understood we can understand that this was an important day in the life of Jesus. The manner of

securing the animal upon which he rode into the city.

"The Lord hath need of him" and then we have the description as to how he was secured. This was the day of the Passover week, being the first day. The city was crowded with pilgrims who had come for the celebration of the greatest of all feasts. Along the road that Jesus came from Bethany was a constant stream of pilgrims. They were aware of Jesus' nearness to them. The news of his preparation to ride a colt into the city would spread rapidly. The Galileans would be quick to interpret its meaning. Jesus had not forsaken his spiritual pattern of Messiahship to which he committed himself in the wilderness of Judeah. He was now about to fulfill prophecy and the glad shouts of the people would acclaim him the Son of David. We picture him riding along very slowly upon this beast. Jesus was aware that the multitudes did not understand the true character of the Messiah. They thought that he was to set up a kingdom in Jerusalem. Zechariah 9:9 refers to the coming of the king. But Jesus recognized that he was the king of righteousness and peace and he was offering himself as sovereign in this way.

II. The Good Man's House

After arriving in Jerusalem Jesus went into the Temple where he discovered that they had used one section of the Temple in the past to teach the Gentiles, but instead of using this section for winning the heathen, it had been turned into a place where doves were sold and money changers operated. He cleansed the Temple and he told them concerning the vineyard. He dealt with the Sadducees concerning the resurrection. He talked about, while he was in the Temple, concerning his authority and he also made an observation of the gift of a widow. The events were moving rapidly and Jesus must prepare for a last meeting with his disciples. Therefore, again as in the previous story which we have been talking about, he picks out two disciples to send on an errand. It is quite a coincidence that in securing the colt he sent two of his disciples and now in preparation for this last meeting with his disciples he selects two to carry out this task.

They were to look for a man carrying a jug of water, just engaged in an ordinary task in the usual role performed

Please Stop! - Prision into the Task? - Cover up some of your sin - Make people think you are alright

than self.

In 1879 a little known layman in Wilmington, N. C. asked if he might extend invitations to the services of their church to the sailors on the ships anchored in their local harbor. The man went down to the docks where he found a Chinese cabin boy, Charlie Jones Soong. The boy came to church, accepted Christ, received a Christian education and returned to his native land where he rose to great influence and became the father of a notable family, including Madame Chiang Kai Check, and Madame Sun Yat Sen.

George Mueller and his orphange in Bristol, England, was a result of an unknow young friend. When Mueller was a wayward young man of 21 in Germany this friend took him to the home of a simple, yet devout earnest Christian who led him to faith in Christ.

The man bearing the jug of water moved into the spot light for an instant and made a significant contribution to the ministry of Jesus. As we are called upon to fulfill tasks for which there is little or no recognition,

Why are you being taken into the church?

This unknown man with the pitcher of water demonstrates that the supreme events in God's kingdom often hinge on some insignificant obscure person. You see, this unknown man was a key to the Last Supper. Little, forgotten men and women have had great parts in some of the movements of this world. For example, in your own life, there has been some un-distinguished Western Union messenger who has brought a message to you or there has been some unknown telephone operator who directed a call to you which changed the direction of your life.

Jesus instructed the disciples as they prepared to observe the Passover that they should find, at a certain public fountain, a man servant bearing a pitcher of water. He would give no evidence of recognizing them. They were to follow him until he turned and faced them at the threshold of his master's house. The arrangements for this last meeting were perhaps kept secret with these two disciples because at this time Judas had arranged to betray Jesus, and he might have prompted the priest to have seized Jesus and arrested him right in the midst of the Last Supper. The appointed disciples found the man at the fountain and they followed him in the direction of

his master's house.

This leads us to point out another incident relative to this, the providential oversight of God. All things work together for good. These disciples were appointed and then they discovered the man, and then they go in to the house. We never know when some service we render, some sermon may be used of God to change the course of someone's life. We do not know but what God may be directing. The man bearing the jug of water is a nameless soul in Bible history. There are a great host of others also. There were the shepherds who were unidentified. The Wise Men whose names are supplied in tradition, but not in the Scriptures. The good Samaritan is unknown. The little boy with his picnic of five barley loaves and two small fish was multiplied to feed hundreds of people and yet his name is unknown. The soldier who came with a sponge full of vinegar to aid Jesus, the town clerk in Ephesus who calmed the mob and saved Paul from being killed. There is the unknown youth who was responsible for Paul's escape in a basket over the wall. There is a great group who are listed in the Book of Life.

Today we think of those who are struggling for recognition or some significant spot at the cost of character, yet the man with the water jug was unknown and yet he is well known, because he discharged a simple duty in the useful work of Jesus Christ. He was not as the people of Babel who were seeking to make a name for themselves. The account in the second book of Samuel where Joab gives a list of the wounded in a battle between the followers of Abner and his chief. In accounting the list he said that there were nineteen who remained nameless of David's servants. Only one of David's was cited.

Today we have read of those who discharged some simple task in the Philadelphia Shipyard. The U. S. S. Olympia, Dewey's flagship of the battle of Manila Bay, during the Spanish American War, is located. The vessel was recently threatened with destruction; it was used to convey the body of the unknown soldier from France to this country following World War I.

One must be satisfied to be unnoticed, if he has been led to accomplish some good, some little unremembered act of kindness, some service to a cause greater

Why are you doing what you are doing in the Church??

let us contribute our best, let us rejoice when we are prompted, like this man, to do some humble deed for Jesus and his kingdom. The good man of the house extended to the disciples a spacious upper room. We have not time to say much about this man, but he is another of these unknown individuals in this series of events. Perhaps he had been indebted to Jesus, but he is a man who was desirous of being recognized as a part of the work of Jesus. He was not there among the twelve and perhaps did not aspire to a position of high honor. He was not even in the upper room present when Jesus celebrated the Passover and the Lord's Supper was instituted, but above all else his desire was to offer the choicest room in his house for Christ's service. The good man of the house received his reward, as your home will receive a reward if it is given over to the service of Christ. For after his resurrection Jesus came back to this upper room and met with his disciples. Jesus found a friend here when the opposition of his enemies seemed to be at its height.

*Jesus found you today
unknown to push out
word -*