

Palm Sunday story by the donkey keeper

[comes on sweeping before he notices the audience] Oh, hello, mind your feet now, there's a lot of muck comes out of that there stable [indicating behind]. People don't realise you know just how much muck donkeys make, ah but I bet you haven't come to talk about muck. You've probably come to find out about that Jesus bloke, and what he were doing on my donkey haven't you. You're the third today, I'm starting to feel like a bit of a celebrity!

I had no idea how much fuss there were going to be. I mean you don't expect it round here, not much happens as we're right on the edge of the city, no if you want to see exciting you have to head right into Jerusalem by the temple, that's where it's more busy like. I knew of Jesus, of course, everybody around these parts has heard of him, especially after he did that thing bringing Lazarus back to life. He's been sat on those hills many a day, telling anyone that wants to hear all about how God loves them and the like, and I'd heard he made people see and stuff, but bringing someone back to life, that's a proper deal ain't it. But I'd heard he was sound, and I knew he came from a good family, being Joseph's lad an' all. So when his friends came and said he needed the donkey, I didn't think twice, even though it were a bit young to be going out in crowds.

So they took it off, like and I didna' think owt more about it, until I heard the noise. There were people singing and shouting and the like. I ran to the road, just over there, and I almost can't get a see cos there were so many people gathering.

They were all looking up towards the edge there as if to see something heading towards the city. That's when I saw him, little Todros, trotting down the hill, like he was God's gift [laughs to self and pauses for effect] Todros, you know, it mean's God's gift... just my little joke... anyway, where was I? yes, there was Todros trotting down the hill and he's only carrying Jesus on his back. And what's more the crowd is going wild. They were throwing their coats and cloaks into the street to create like a carpet for them, and waving

palm leaves and singing like.. [mimes branch waving] Hosanna, hosanna, Praise to the Son of David [stops looking a bit embarrassed] hmm, yes, they were all pretty excited and it were a sight to see.

I said to my Mr(s), it were like they all thought he were the answer to all their problems. Like he was gonna change the world or summat. Eh, and maybe he will, you never know. I heard there were all sorts of ructions when he arrived at the Temple. Told them to stop exploiting people in his father's house! Well you can imagine how them Pharisee types took that, can't you - saying that God was his Dad, that's like proper blaspheming that it.

Alls I know is that there is summat about him. He was sat on our donkey and all these people were waving and shouting and he looked pleased, but, well I can't really explain it, he didn't look proud like or embarassed. He just looked like it was how it was supposed to be, and how each and every person there was special. [shaking head] See I can't explain it, but when he got to me and patted Todros and said 'Thank's for God's gift' before riding on, well it just kind of all made sense somehow.

[starting sweeping again] Anyway, I can't stand around here chatting, my Mr(s) wants things smart in time for the Passover Feast so I'd better get on. Take care, and if you're coming back this way, let me know how that Jesus gets on in Jerusalem... definitely something about him you know