

# Useful to the Lord

by Erlo Stegen

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*Erlo Stegen emphasizes the importance of obedience, faith, and God's desire to use each believer for His purposes.*

**Duration:** 1:32:57

**Scripture:** Matthew 21:4-42

**Topics:** "Service"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker begins by discussing the significance of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in the New Testament. He then shares a personal story about trying to break in a stubborn donkey, highlighting the importance of setting a good example. The speaker connects this story to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a humble donkey, emphasizing the transformative power of Christ in our lives. He encourages listeners to reflect on whether their own lives have been changed by their faith and challenges them to be known for their transformation rather than their past sins. The sermon concludes with a reference to a historical revival in Wales and the impact of changed lives on the community.

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## Transcript

Let's pray. We thank you for another opportunity to sit at your feet, Lord Jesus. At the feet of your word.

We ask you to be in our midst, walk among us, touching each and every heart, that this service would not be without profit. By your Holy Spirit, Lord, work in our minds and hearts so that we would gain wisdom and understand the heavenly mysteries and secrets. Amen.

Let us read God's word. Matthew chapter 21. From verse 1. Now when they drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, go into the village opposite you and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her, loose them and bring them to me.

And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, the Lord has need of them and immediately he will send them. All this was done that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell the daughter of Zion, behold, your king is coming to you, lowly and sitting on a donkey. A colt, the foal of a donkey.



helped you in anything, you will still go to hell in spite of the fact that he died. But why it can be so four hundred and fifty-six, as called? Aren't you sure, Lord of Hood? It don't be! It's a call to all. It's a commandment.

There are four hundred and fifty-six promises, prophecies. Another one is a virgin will conceive and bear a child. And so there are many prophecies concerning his birth, his life, and even his death.

And everything the prophet said and the Lord himself said went into fulfillment. And the Lord himself said that it will be fulfilled. And therefore, when he said that, he meant the same thing.

There are many prophecies concerning his birth, his life, and even his death. And so there are many prophecies concerning his birth, his life, and even his death. And so, that foolish professor saying what he said, you see, the knowledge of theology helps you nothing, and even Luther said that the very hell will be paved with the heads of ministers.

And it's said when such people are the so-called leaders in theology, and they are the blind leading the blind. But if you're not blind, you won't follow a blind person. But if you're not blind, you won't follow a blind person.

There's so much scientific evidence, not even according to theology, and if you try and explain it on those terms, but even on scientific terms, there's so much evidence that points to the truth of the Bible. There's not one promise in the Bible that hasn't gone into fulfillment. There's not one promise in the Bible that hasn't gone into fulfillment.

When the Lord Jesus was in Jerusalem with his disciples, they went to the temple, and the disciples were amazed when they saw that structure. What a wonderful building. And then the Lord Jesus shocked them when he said, this building will be broken down.

Not one stone will be left upon the other. They couldn't believe that such a thing was possible. So they went to the temple, and the disciples were amazed when they saw that structure.

They couldn't believe that such a thing was possible. It's like when I saw the building at Makoko, I said, wow, they built it so strong, it looks like they expect elephants to walk on the roof. But then on the other hand, if ever the time would come where people would preach in that place and not preach the truth, then it would be better if that place did turn to rubble.

So the Lord Jesus, when he went to Jerusalem, as he was climbing the mountain, going up the hillside, on the other side was Bethpage. Now Bethpage means the house of figs. In that place there were many fig trees.

Then the Lord spoke to two of his disciples. We don't know who they were. The Bible doesn't tell us.

Whether it was Nathanael or Peter or John, we don't know who those two were. So the Lord sent them to that village opposite them, and he said, there you will find this donkey tied together with her foal. Loose them and bring them to me.

The disciples left immediately. He said to his disciples, if the owner of the donkey asks you what you are doing, just say to him, the Lord has need of them, and he will let them go. They didn't even ask him and say, but Lord, do you know what's happening on the other side of the hill? Can you see what no one else

can see? This village was opposite them, far away, and they didn't say, but Lord, how can you see something so far away? It's impossible.

He told them exactly what they would see, yet they could not see it. But that's what it's like. The Lord Jesus sees everything, even what's on the other side of the hill, on the opposite side, what you can't see, no one else can see.

God sees it. Yesterday they were telling me down in the Tugela Valley that there's a place down there where someone hid because he was fleeing from King Shaka. That place is actually now called after that person.

So you're wasting your time, you're just playing the fool if you go into your room or into any place, you think you're all alone, you lock the door, you close the curtains, you make sure no one sees you. You are very visible before God. He sees everything.

But it's amazing when he said to them, go and you'll find the donkey, loose it and bring it here. They didn't doubt. They didn't have many questions and saying, but Lord, how are you sure? How can you see? Are you sure about this? Jesus.

Jesus is God. He sees everything. He knows everything.

Nothing is hidden before his eyes. And if the owner asks you anything, you just say to him, the Lord has need of it. Amazing.

Jesus is Lord. He is king, but a different type of king to the ones we know here. Our kings are human like we are.

So they make mistakes. They even can tell lies. They do things just as wrong as we do.

But Jesus is not such a king. He is the king and Lord of truth. There is nothing, no untruth, no lie in him.

Now, the people of Israel did no longer know a king. Because the nation of Israel had been sent into exile in Babylon. Remember Nebuchadnezzar, the king who conquered Israel and took them into exile in Babylon.

From that time on, there was no king of Judah. Jesus was the first king of Judah. Yet, Jesus then became the first king of Judah.

He became the first real king of Judah. He wasn't just a king like David and Solomon and the others. He was the king of kings.

Being God himself. He was the king of kings. He was the king of kings.

As I said, he said of the temple, it will be destroyed because the people that were worshiping in there were not worshiping in truth. Remember how the Lord Jesus had taken a weapon and had driven out the merchants from the temple and he said this shall be a house of prayer and of worship but you make it into a den of thieves yes they came there they were so to say worshiping and praying but they were also selling their merchandise there their money was very important to them and that's what it was all about it would be good if the Lord Jesus were today again come into the church with his whip drive out all those that are there with their own motives that are not worshiping there in truth but who are just there after

personal gain and look just after money to drive out all those who have made it into a den of thieves who actually thieves in the house of God and so it was with the Lord Jesus that just 70 years later that temple was destroyed and not one stone was left upon the other. What the Lord Jesus says is truth.

Everything else is a lie. What he says that stands. The things of the world they pass away and so does even beauty and youth that all passes away and and remember if that's what you hold on to it's all going to going to pass soon only what is of God will stand forever.

Now then there are people who say but you say we mustn't steal and hear the Lord Jesus himself went and stole this donkey are these people who say such foolish things they really have no brains they just sit on them. Now in Mark it also relates the story and there it says that if he asks you what you're doing saying that the Lord has need of it he just needs it and he will return it soon. He didn't steal it.

He just asked to loan it. He even said tell him that it will be returned soon. And they didn't for a moment doubt.

They didn't say but what if he doesn't let us take it and all the different options and possibilities. No they just went and as they had been told without doubting. And just tell him if he should ask that the Lord has need of it.

Now this was also a female donkey so all the descendants of Eve do you hear? And I even yesterday said to the woman I said look a new woman shouldn't complain even if you think you have a difficult time always remember that the first sin came into this world through you and you even led the husband into sin. But I went on to say that we also are thankful that it's the woman that brought the Savior into this world without the help of a man. So you woman don't be like the old Eve but rather like the second generation woman if I can say it that way that brought the Savior into the world that woman that lived a pure life and God used her to bring the Savior into the world.

A woman has a lot of power and she has the power to take her husband to hell but also has the power to take him along to heaven. A woman has so much authority that the Bible even says that a man will leave his father and his mother and cling to his wife. And I'm so happy because I know of a woman who led her unconverted husband who was a heathen a hard man but through her life he came to the Lord.

So this was a female donkey and the Lord said I have need of it. Do you know that the Lord has need of you? You woman do you realize that the Lord wants you. He needs you.

He wants to work through you to reach even the men and the children the whole world. But the same applies to the to the men and to the children to the boys God the Lord Jesus has need of you. He needs a tool through which he can work.

He needs you. But the minister shouldn't sit back and become slack and say well it's for them now they must go and get on with the job. Or that you sit back and say well it's for it's a job of the ministers the preachers know that the Lord Jesus has need of you.

The king of kings has need of you specifically. Don't look at someone else to do it. It's a job only you can do and he needs you to do this.

And so they went they loved the Lord Jesus they honored him and looked up to him as the Lord. If someone is your king and your Lord you will look up to him and be subject to him. You will trust him and

you will obey him.

These two disciples they believed in Jesus. If you think of a small child don't think that a small child is innocent and doesn't ever sin. I remember I was overseas once and I said that our children have become like little devils and the Christians were up in arms about that statement they said how can I refer to the children as devils.

Some even parted ways with me because of that statement. The Lord Jesus said if you don't repent and become as little children you won't see the kingdom of heaven. Now even a small child is sinful.

It's stubborn and wants its own way and gets angry. A breastfeeding mother will even know that her child gets so angry at times that it will bite the mother because it doesn't get its own way. Maybe it would have been good because most of the people that went against me overseas were men.

Maybe they should have breastfed their children a bit and they would have seen now what a temper they can have. A child can be proud and just want its own way and be cheeky, arrogant. You tell it to do something it just ignores you, goes away and does its own thing.

And maybe you even need to maybe pinch it or do something to try and correct it. Why? Because this child was born in sin. That child is born with a sin.

That child is born with a sin. That child is born with a sinful nature and unless you correct it and help that child early, Susanna Wesley said you need to correct the child, break the will of that child before it's three years old. Otherwise you will lose that child.

But now why then did the Lord say if you don't become like this little child you won't enter the kingdom of heaven? Did he mean that we should be cheeky and arrogant like that child and be proud like a child that fights with other children and pinches and hits them? That's not what he referred to. What he was referring to, why we should become like that little child, he was referring to the faith that a child has. So in faith we must be like a child.

If you tell a child something the child believes it. If you tell a little child something that child accepts it. It just accepts what it's told.

It accepts it without question, without reservation and that's why the Lord Jesus said you must have the faith of a little child and that when he says something we accept it in the same way. But if you question everything like that theologian, that doctor who questioned everything then he and you have no faith. But if you have faith as the Lord says you will accept what God says and his word says and you will do it you will keep what he says.

Have you got such, have you got such commitment in your faith to the Lord? To the Lord and his word? Now the word says if someone if a brother sins he makes a mistake then you must go to him and talk to him about it and not go to someone else and tell someone else about it and then go on to tell someone else. How often heaven I said this but you continue doing it. You are child of the devil because you gossip instead of doing what God's word says you spread it and you gossip about it.

The Lord says if you don't have the faith of a child you will not see the kingdom of heaven because if you tell a child something it accepts it and does it. So they brought the donkey and when he asked what are you doing with the donkey the Lord has need of it they said and he let it go and they brought it and the

Lord sat on it. Now in the other gospels where it relates the same story it also says that no one had ever sat on this donkey before.

Do you know a donkey that's never been ridden on? Maybe you don't know a donkey. When I was a child I loved donkeys especially small little ones because they were almost like a cuddly teddy bear. So when my children were small I asked Butomkulu to go and get me a small foal of a donkey and I thought I'd wrap it up and present it to my children to make them happy.

Then after many months I asked Butomkulu I said but where is my donkey? He said no I brought the donkey. I said well where is it? He says no I brought it and I took it down there to the field and so it's been there for months and by that time it had already grown so I didn't have the chance to present it to my children as a little foal. Then they said that this little donkey it had grown up to the point where it was extremely cheeky.

No one could even get near it. It bit everyone. It was actually quite a danger.

Then I said well this donkey just needs to be broken in. It needs its will broken. And I called some young boys I said who knows how to ride a donkey? They came.

The first one that volunteered I said well you get on and ride it till you've broken it in. Well it was quite a scene. That donkey bucked and did all sorts of things and it didn't take long the boy was lying on the ground.

It jumped around. At one time the front legs were in the air and then the back ones were in the air. It was like a madman.

And then the second boy came. And then I offered them some money. I said look if you manage to break in this donkey I'll give you something for it.

And the second boy got the same treatment and it didn't take long he was off as well. And then someone else came. He said I want to give it a try.

Well this boy hung on and he hung on for about an hour. It took about an hour. This donkey ran up and down all over the place.

Eventually after an hour it was tame. It gave up. But it's interesting that there are many people who also have the head of a donkey.

You tell them something they just don't listen. And if a donkey does all this jumping it passes winds and if it's like some people when you're with them they do the same. You almost you can smell it when they talk and it just stinks.

But well eventually we we didn't know what to do with this donkey. I eventually gave it to the co-workers. I said they can slaughter it and have some meat.

He said we just slaughter it. And the co-workers said well they don't eat donkey meat. They've never eaten it.

I said well maybe they're not suited because I've heard that they do eat donkey meat. He said no the Zulus don't eat donkey meat. Well in fact I don't even know what happened to the donkey.

I but here was this donkey had never been ridden on and they put their clothes on these the donkey and the Lord sat on it and the donkey submitted and didn't do anything that a normal donkey would have done. Why? Because the king was sitting on it. In fact its own creator.

And so it is with a person whether you were a prostitute whether you were a thief whatever you were when Jesus comes into your life you become tame. Well maybe you're a wife um who maybe you ride your husband you always have something in the last word to say um but when Jesus comes into your life things change where even your husband is amazed and says but what's happened to my wife I don't know her like this.

And when a husband and when a husband gets converted the wife is amazed because as a husband you don't get angry anymore you don't shout at her anymore and when you don't do something exactly as he expected her to do he no longer goes off into a rage and that the wife says but something's changed in his life he's different a person's life changes just like that donkey's life changed when Jesus rode and Jesus put his seal on this donkey have you ever looked closely at a donkey have you seen his mark on it if a donkey is not black in color then you will be able to see this this mark of the Lord Jesus if you look on the back um along the spine you'll see a black line and then down and then looking from the top down from the neck running down to the legs you will also see some a black line

running down so it looks like a cross so you see that cross on the donkey and that's why one says the Lord Jesus left his mark on the donkey and as he sat on the donkey they entered Jerusalem i'm sure even the donkey was amazed at its own behavior and amazed at all it experienced these people meeting them putting their clothes and branches before them for them to cross over the donkey benefited because they put out all these things so that they would walk over like on a carpet that it would be soft and not on the hard stone why because the Lord was sitting on the donkey they even chopped down branches and palm leaves and put them down and branches for them to walk in those days when a king went into battle and he came back victorious he would be met in that way they would cut down palm

branches lay them down before the king in that way proclaiming his victory and so the king came having overcome and they were acknowledging that victory david and so they were calling out at the top of their voices saying hosanna to the king of david the son of david yes hosanna meaning save us help us so they were calling out to the son of david to help and to save them and so Jesus entered so the people submitted to him acknowledged him and worshipped him humbled themselves before him it's amazing yes even the donkey submitted and became humble are you known in the world today because of your conversion and the change and transformation in your life have people been amazed at the change that has taken place in your life or is everything still the same has nothing changed and that's why

they don't say anything and notice it you were known for gossiping for drugs for alcohol for smoking for the lusts of the flesh and suddenly you meet the person and he has changed totally he's the opposite go 1903 in 1903 there was a revival in wales many of the people in wales at that time were working in coal mines many of those people are as you know were rough people and very unfriendly they didn't have the equipment that is available today so they used donkeys they sent donkeys down into the mines to be the the power that was used and then they had a big problem because the donkeys went on strike they just didn't want to budge why these miners had been so rough before they were the hardest people cruel to the donkeys they swore all the time and then these men got converted and they

stopped swearing they stopped treating them so cruelly that even the donkeys didn't know what was going on anymore and that's why they didn't move anymore because they didn't understand this new language tea gucci If you truly get converted, then even a donkey will notice it.

Even a two-legged donkey will notice it. If you experience a true conversion, they will say, wow, so-and-so has changed. Now my final point, this is Christmastime.

Now it's Christmastime, yet people don't speak about Christmastime. Everyone's only speaking about 2010. The Soccer World Cup, that's all people are talking about in preparation for it.

Now the devil is a master at it, and he will use everything he can just to deceive you and distract you. Christmastime is the time we remember the coming of the Messiah, of our Saviour, of Christ. But now that is not important anymore, it's just soccer.

We no longer marvel at the Christ Child that came, that God became flesh, that the Saviour came. No longer do we cry out Hosanna to the Son of David. Just like 2000 years, when that was a time when we should have celebrated that it's been 2000 years ago that the Lord Jesus came.

At that time, one should have celebrated 2000 years of Christ coming into this world, and the devil came. Instead of celebrating 2000 years of Christ coming into this world, we should have celebrated 2000 years of Christ coming into this world. Instead of celebrating 2000 years of Christ coming into this world, the devil distracted the whole world with the Y2K bug.

Instead of focusing on Christ, everyone was focusing on everything going wrong at midnight on January 2000. And everyone was just busy with that, and forgot about the Christ Child. When God starts working, and when he's at work, the devil works as well.

He'll try and distract you, he'll try and rob you of the blessing which God wants to give you. The coming of Christ is far greater than any FIFA World Cup. And yet for that, what isn't being done? All the stadiums that are being built.

People are even asking, well what will be done with those stadiums after the World Cup anyway? And that's what the world is busy with. They're busy also preparing for all the people that will be coming, and how they will be entertained, even through prostitution. And they're thinking of where to accommodate them, and people coming from Nigeria, other countries, and South African girls as well.

Their bodies must become factories now. They're thinking of where to accommodate them, and how they will be entertained. And the world is busy with that.

And that's what the world is busy with. And that's what the world is busy with. So remember that the Lord Jesus came into this world, and remember also that He needs to come into your life.

How does He come into your life? The first thing is that you recognize that you're a sinner, and that you have godly remorse for your sin. Not like today, a person says he's got converted, but he carries on sinning. Whatever he did before, he didn't ever have any remorse.

People accept the Lord Jesus, so to say, with a smile on their face. It's just a circus. If you want to have a real meeting with the Lord Jesus, you need to have regret and godly remorse for the sin that you've committed.

That you're sorry that you have sinned, and that drives you to Jesus. That you're sorry for the sin you've done, that you come to the Lord and you also cry out, Hosanna, Son of David, save me, help me. That's the first step.

Remember when Peter had sinned, when his eyes met the eyes of the Lord, even though Peter had been like a rock. But when he saw the Lord looking at him, there was deep regret and remorse for what he had done, and he cried. He wept bitterly, just like David.

Remember, David was also a warrior, he had overcome nations, but when he sinned, and he saw his sin, he wept. And he said, Lord, my bones are withering away, and he was at the end of himself because of his sin. Have you ever felt that remorse and regret for the sin you've committed? And it's not your tears that washes away the sin, remember that, it's the blood of Christ that washes the sin away.

But it's that regret, that remorse that you feel because of the sin you've committed, that you are deeply sorry that you have committed that sin. Have you ever experienced that sorrow, that godly sorrow? If someone is sick and he's in terrible pain, that pain will eventually drive him to the doctor. And if you'd offer to take him to the doctor, he'll love you for it, and be thankful.

But if you go to a healthy person and you say, can I take you to the doctor, he'll offer to you. But if he feels that pain, then it will be easy to go. If you tell a person to accept Christ and he doesn't see any need, he'll laugh at you.

But if he knows that he's lost and you come and you offer him help, that he goes to the Lord Jesus, he will accept it. There's a woman that came to the Lord Jesus in these days. I asked her, I said, why don't you come to the service? She said, well, I'm married.

I have a husband. Many girls and women want to get married, but when they do get married, then there are lots of regrets and questions, and they remember. And in fact, you'll regret having got married and you'll be horrible to your husband to the point where he will go and look for other, and run after other women.

And you blame him for it when it's your own fault because you don't treat him properly. I asked her, why don't you come to the Lord Jesus? She said, well, I'm married. I have a husband.

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And you came and you entered Jerusalem and you were humble. You didn't go in there on the smartest horse, but you rode in on a donkey. Lord, we thank you because you are able to change a person's life.

Thank you, Lord, because you came as the greatest hero and warrior, crushing the head of that serpent. Our grudges, and our evil tongue, and the lusts of the flesh, the world, you overcame everything. Our grudges, and our evil tongue, and the lusts of the flesh, the world, you overcame everything.

Lord, we too should cut down those branches, those palm branches. Lay them before you, because you came in such a humble way, but also coming as the greatest hero and overcomer. Lay them before you, because you came in such a humble way, but also coming as the greatest hero and overcomer.

Now we pray, Lord Jesus, that your grace will be with us all, and that through your grace your word will work in our lives and change them. That the heart is changed and the mind is changed. Amen.

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