Sermon- 1st Advent- Nov. 28-9, 2020

Title: “On a Colt”.

Text: Mark 11:1-10

Prayer

“Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.”

Salutation

**Bridge**

 **Happy Palm Sunday! Seems odd doesn’t it? I mean, as we begin the new church year this Advent season, we are back in Bethany on the road to Jerusalem, and we see Jesus as He prepares to walk those last steps to His death on Palm Sunday. But in reality, He is preparing a colt, His disciples and us, for a new beginning. Preparing us for a new kingdom completed in His plan and purpose of the Father, that all may reside in a joyful and triumphant redemption. And on that day, He began His triumphant entry, appropriately, on the back of a colt which had never been ridden.**

**Law**

 **Did you listen intently to the portion of the text I just read? Jesus and the disciples are walking along, and He sends some of them to find a colt at the edge of town that is tied up and He asks them to bring it to Him. Sounds like a simple task and a reasonable request, right? To the untrained ear, that may be! But think. The corral is on the edge of town, away from people. This colt, as Jesus said, had never been ridden. It was tied up and restrained. To the trained hand, it is a red flag, it means, this is one mangy critter. It’s as mean as a junk yard dog. It won’t let anyone near him nor get on its back! It is the epitome of nasty and no way a pony for the kids to leisurely go for a ride in the park! For Jesus to ask them to take it and bring it to Him made no sense whatsoever. Why? For what purpose?**

 **If you think about it, we sinners are just like this colt. We are untamed. We desire to buck off anyone that would suggest that we do what we don’t want. Ever try to ride an unbroken colt? It isn’t always fun. I know this for a fact because I used to own horses. Even when you’ve had that colt with you from birth to the day you begin to place weight on its back, it is a challenge to go forward toward it getting used to being ridden. Even the most gentile of colts is a process. If a caring handler takes his time with the colt, it can make the transition into something greater, something that completes its Godly purpose. So, when the disciples told the owner what Jesus had said they must have marveled, chuckled and said, “Go for it, Rabbi!” And Jesus most certainly did.**

**But for what purpose? Was it to break the colt into submission so it could be ridden? Or was it to gently lead it to its greater purpose? It’s like that for us at times. We need to be broken. Broken into pieces so that we lose those mangy, nasty, mean characteristics. In order that we can be made new in repentance and led to our greater purpose in Christ. And sometimes, it is to gently lead us in another way. Jesus started with the colt that day in order to prove something. “But wait!” you might say. To whom was He proving anything? Those on the road and more importantly us. To prove to us that He is our caring, gentile, and loving God. On that leads us to salvation, no matter the road we travel.**

**Gospel**

 **When was the last time a miracle passed you by and when you realized what it was your jaw dropped to the floor? The people saw Jesus slowly riding in from down the street. They had prepared for Him, knowing He had been walking in from Bethany and they wanted to greet Him in Majesty and with all the pomp and circumstance they could muster, throwing palm branches and spreading their cloaks on the ground as if He were the King, which, He was. But when they saw Him on the colt of their neighbor, this unridden, untamed, mean and nasty colt, they knew they were witnessing a miracle. I know that if I had seen that, I’d have been scratching my head saying, “What in the world?” The sight must have been astounding. They knew then that Jesus was King alright, King of the Universe and Creator of all! And they praised God shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming Kingdom or our Father David! Hosanna in the highest!”**

 **Indeed, He had come to bring the Kingdom. He had come for a greater purpose than they supposed however, not to save them for the Romans, but to save them and all men from their sins. That includes us. And He has ridden with us into His Kingdom and saved us from ourselves, sin, and the devil. And after the end of His ride, He did that on the cross, taking our nasty, untamed, and mean sins upon Himself and washing them away with His blood. Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Lord! And He did all of that without condition. Freely He gave of Himself. That answers my previous question, “For what Purpose?” The focus is not the colt, it is us! To lead us to glory. To lead us with care and grace to the Father and eternity.**

 **The people on the street saw and believed. Those that remained strong most certainly are with Him today. By grace through faith, we join them in the throng. We place our cloaks and palms on the floor and wait in anticipation of His return for us.**

**Conclusion**

 **Jesus is our caring Master, who cares enough to lead us to our greater purpose in Him and with the Father. He leads us to the Kingdom, broken sinners now free. He rode in on a colt that day. But that colt is no longer a colt. He is a different kind of animal. What will He ride in upon when He returns in glory and majesty? He will ride in on a Majestic White Steed in the clouds with all the saints, and we won’t be able to miss it! Same colt? Do you suppose? I don’t know. But it would be cool! God works that way sometimes and as we wait and go forward this Advent season, let us keep on looking and preparing for His return. We look forward to that day, when the Kingdom will be completed on earth, when there will be peace, perfection, and the people of God will proclaim, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Amen!**

**May the peace of God that surpasses all our understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.**