

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 19: 28-40

28. And when Jesus had thus spoken, which if thou hast been paying attention thou wouldst know it was so, He went before, that is in front, ascending up the hill to Jerusalem.

29. And it came to pass, verily, that He was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the mount of Olives. It is thus called for it is quite steep, and many olive trees grow thereon. And suddenly He sent two of his disciples,

30. Saying, Go ye into the village over against you. And the disciples did hesitate not knowing if it was to Bethphage or Bethany they were sent. And lo! Jesus did point and told them in a manner that was certain, and He continued, saying, In the which at thine entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him with care for he is yet unbroken, and bring him hither.

31. And if any man ask you, Why do ye loose him? Thus shall ye raise your eyes unto heaven, and then say unto him, Because the Lord hath need of him. And ye shall offer no further explanation even if he questioneth ye mightily. Use ye elbows if needed.

32. And they that were sent went their way, and lo, the star they had seen went ahead of them until it came to the place where the colt was tied. [*1] And the disciples found an colt tied in the street outside the tavern even as he had said unto them. And they took courage, and several flagons thereof.

33. And as they were loosing the colt, the owners thereof stood in an crowd about them and made threatening gestures, and said unto them, Oi, what are ye about? Why loose ye the colt?

34. And they said, The Lord hath need of your colt. And they were mightily relieved it was not an ass [*2], for that would have made their reply open to exceeding misinterpretation. (Let the reader understand, or not as the case may be.) And the owners nudged each other and winketh exceedingly, and let them take the animal.

35. And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt for there was no saddle nor stirrups, and they set Jesus thereon, and He did grasp the mane of the colt to steady himself and grip with His knees. Then saith He, Giddy-up.

36. And as He went, they spread their clothes in the way, though not all of their garments else that would have caused great upset amongst those watching. And there had been no laundry of late.

37. And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, for they had drunk much wine and eaten many olives whilst waiting for the colt. And the innkeeper did testify that this was true, and asked them to leave as there was no longer any room.

38. And they did open their psalters and cried, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest, and some did exclaim, Mine's a pint, and Who has the bacon [*3] crisps?

39. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto Him, Master, rebuke thy disciples, for they doth cry out lustily and make many gestures and disturb the neighbours.

40. And He answered and said unto them, I tell ye that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. And the Pharisees wist not what He saith, neither did the disciples understand for they were rejoicing and lifting up their hands and singing Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, and then Little Donkey. But there was no mention of any palm branches being torn down.

[*1] This clause is debatable. Some manuscripts have the phrase, "I did this bit earlier. Lk." in the margins.

[*2] Here the Greek is uncertain.

[*3] Scholars consider these words to be a much later interpolation, probably dating to the final draft of the 1961 New English Bible and the translators taking a break.