

**Palm Sunday;  
April 14 & 15, 2019  
Luke 19:28-40**

Who is Kyle Macdonald? Name sound familiar? Ever heard of the One Red Paperclip Project? Anyone? It was summer of 2005. Kyle was enjoying life. He had good ideas. He had big plans. But his cash flow was less than optimal. So, he decided to take action. He came up with a plan. It wasn't starting a new business or launching a much anticipated website. He didn't meet with private investors for an invention that would change the world. No, his plan was a little more subdued than any of these. He looked down at his desk and something caught his eye. There it was – a red paperclip. He was going to list a red paperclip on Craigslist with the hopes of trading it for something bigger and better. And he did. He had an ambitious goal. He said that he would travel to all the places that he would trade. And he did. After 14 trades and almost a year, he ended up with a two story house. Yep, he traded a red paperclip for a house. It began in Montreal.

- He traded the paperclip for a fish shaped pen in Vancouver.
- He traded that for a one of a kind hand-sculpted doorknob in Seattle looked like ET.
- He traded that for a Coleman stove in Massachusetts.
- He traded the stove for a Honda generator in California.
- He then traded the generator in New York for an “instant party”: an empty beer keg (with IOU to fill the keg) and neo Budweiser sign.
- He traded his “instant party” for a Ski-doo snowmobile in Quebec. (That’s where the trades took off.)
- He traded the snowmobile for a two person trip to Yahk, British Columbia.
- He traded the 2<sup>nd</sup> person spot of the trip a Cintas delivery van.
- He traded the van for a recording contract in Ontario.
- He traded the recording contract for a year’s rent in an apartment in Phoenix.
- He traded the year’s rent in Phoenix for an afternoon with Alice Cooper.
- He traded the afternoon for a motorized KISS snow globe.
- He traded the one of a kind snow globe to the actor Corbin Bernsen, who had a collection of 6,000 snow globes, for a role in a movie he was making.
- Finally, he traded the role in a movie for a two-story house in Kipling, Saskatchewan, where they also gave him the world’s largest red paperclip.

It took him about a year over two countries, but he accomplished his goal of getting a two-story house from a red paperclip. Now he works as a motivational speaker encouraging others to accomplish big things from a tiny red paperclip.

By now, you are probably wondering: *What does this have to do with Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?* I want you to stretch your imagination a bit. I want you to think what God accomplished in this world in not just a year, but in 33 years. It all began with that baby in a manger. At first that child didn't seem to be all that significant. He was like any other young man growing up. But he was anything but ordinary and insignificant. Then he began his ministry. Crowds began to follow him. People began to think that maybe Jesus was the one who would return Israel to its glory years. But Jesus had something much bigger he was about to do. The crowds began to drift away. But then came Palm Sunday. The city of Jerusalem became all stirred up. There was an excitement in the air that began to spread. All over the city they came to catch a glimpse of Jesus coming in on a donkey. For a short time that day, he got close to the praise that he deserved. Soon their hopes would be dashed. In just a few short days, the Hosannas turned to crucify him. He was nailed to a tree, and died. But on that cross, he accomplished something that only God could do – he rescued this world from its sin. From a tiny baby God accomplished the salvation of the world.

On that first Palm Sunday, Jesus had one more chance to teach who he was and why he had come. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, he knew what not only what laid ahead of him on Friday, but he knew everything. He tells two of his disciples: **“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”** Try that one with a stranger’s car. What would you do, if some stranger came up to you and said: *The Lord needs your car? Okay?* Look at what happens. It happens just as Jesus said.

Do we sometimes forget that Jesus knows everything? We know the story so well of Palm Sunday, and we love seeing all the cute kids coming into church with their palms. (I'm not trying to diminish that. I like it too.) But do we sometimes forget WHO is riding on the donkey? I do. I sometimes forget to just stand in awe of Jesus. It's so easy to do. There are just so many distractions in our lives.

Do we sometimes forget that this is the Son of God? This is the Son of God who knows every sinful thought you have. Jesus knows all those nooks and crannies of your heart. Yet, even though he knows and sees all that sin, he still forgives you. He still keeps riding into Jerusalem. He still keeps going to the cross. That's why Jesus came. He came to bring peace. He came to bring freedom to the captives.

No one was going to stop Jesus. Satan, himself, could not stop him. As we marvel at the power of Jesus on Palm Sunday; on Good Friday; on Easter – we need to remember that power. When we fail, we need to remember that Jesus did not fail. He never will fail us. This powerful Savior cares about each one of us. That Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey comes for you. He makes your relationship with God okay. He works and strengthens faith in you to trust him – to trust him with all your heart.

We might marvel at how someone could trade a red paperclip for a house. But Jesus did something greater; he traded his life for yours. He came so that we can shout for all eternity: **“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”** Amen.