

Children's talk for Palm Sunday

10th April 2022

I wonder if you have ever lent something to somebody? You might lend a book, or a toy? We once lent our oven to our next-door neighbour so that she could bake a cake.

On Palm Sunday, what did Jesus need? [He needed a donkey]

Of course, he could have walked, as he had many times before, but this day was different. He wanted people to remember that many years before a prophet called Zechariah had said that a new king would come, who would be better than all the kings that had come before. This king would come with God's blessing and would bless the world. There hadn't been a king in Israel for a very long time. But people believed that one day he would come, and he would be a descendant of the great king David.

In those days kings went out to fight battles. When they returned, they returned in splendour, with a great procession, with chariots and horses and trumpets, bringing with them, prisoners taken in battle. But the king Zechariah spoke of would be different, he would come in peace, he would come humbly, and riding on a donkey.

And that's how Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. There were no officials, only his followers to cheer him on. No red carpet, but only people's coats which they put down on the road.

Jesus had no donkey, so he had to borrow one.

It had been a bit like that all his life. Even when he was born, his parents Mary and Joseph, were looking for somewhere to stay and the innkeeper said, "You can borrow my stable." Little did the innkeeper know that his kind act would mean that the Son of God would be born in his stable!

Can you think of some other things that Jesus needed that he needed to ask people if he could borrow?

What did he borrow from Peter?

When Jesus borrowed Peter's boat, all sorts of things happened. He caught an enormous shoal of fish and he learned that there was a special job for him to do, to fish for people, so that they could hear about Jesus. He saw Jesus calm a violent storm and walk on water.

On another occasion when Jesus was out on the hillside teaching people all day, he wanted to give them something to eat.

He borrowed a boy's lunch. It wasn't much: just a few bread rolls and some fish, but Jesus was able to feed over 5,000 people with it!

Even when he died, and there was no-where for him to be laid, a man called Joseph lent him his own tomb that he had bought for himself. I don't suppose he was expecting to get it back! His tomb became the most famous tomb in history when he lent it to Jesus, because on Easter Sunday it became the empty tomb when Jesus rose from the dead.

It seems that Jesus was just like us. Sometimes he needed people to help him. None of those people we've mentioned probably thought they were doing very much, but when people shared what belonged to them with Jesus, something wonderful happened.

Whatever we do for Jesus, even if it seems a very small thing and insignificant, it can be used by him.

So even if we don't have a donkey to lend, there's always something we can do for Jesus.