

All Saints Talk for 24 March 2024 - Palm Sunday

Nancy Goudie – visiting speaker

God's Questions: Have you never read...?

Reading: Matthew 21:1-17. Jesus clears the temple.

It's Palm Sunday and this particular story is told in all four of the Gospels, so therefore it's important. Verse one, Jesus says to the disciples go into the village ahead of him, and at once you will find a donkey tied there. And he tells them to bring the donkey to Him. Verse one, Jesus asked them to listen to what he's got to say. And it's so important for every one of us to listen to what God is saying, but not to stop there. The disciples then had to take the next step, which was obeying God. And you had to go and actually find this donkey. And then the third step was trusting Jesus. If you look in Scripture, you will see this journey, again and again, where people hear what God is saying, obey what God is saying and trust what God is saying. And I'll tell you, if you do that, you will develop an incredible life of faith. And I'm going to speak a little bit about that this morning. But Jesus says to the disciples, go and get the donkey. And the disciples heard what he said, and they took the second step, which was obeying Jesus and went and got the donkey.

I remember my husband, who is no longer alive, but he and I came into full time work way back in 1980. So we've been in it a long time and we have lived by faith all that time. What I mean by that is that we have depended on God for the finances we need, not just for the ministry, but also for ourselves and for every person in the ministry depended on God for finance. And so I remember one time when we were praying and asking God about our car, and we were dying in our knees, and we're saying, Lord, please tell us what to do about our car. Because our car was very good for short journeys, but not for long journeys. And so we thought, Lord, we need a new car. And we were praying, and God spoke to us. And God said, I want you to give away the car you have to someone else. And he told us who. So then it came, we had to obey that. So that's what we did. We obeyed it, the second step. And we told the person we felt God

had said that they should have it. They were absolutely delighted. It was an answer to prayer for them. And then we went back to God within enthusiasm saying, Okay, Lord, you have done that, we've obeyed you, we've trusted you, so now where is our car? And it was one of these times when there was just silence. Ever had those kind of times? Oh, yes. And there was just nothing. And Ray and I were both praying and could not find the answer to what God wanted us to do. And so, Ray said, I'll tell you what, I'll go and I'll pray on my own, you go and you pray on your own, and then we'll come together and we'll see what God is saying to both of us. I thought that was a great idea. So he went away, and I went away, we came back, and he said, Oh, I feel I've got a word from God. I said, Oh, brilliant, because I got nothing. So what did you get? He said, Well, do you remember that bit in the Bible where it says, you know, the, Jesus says to the disciples, Go and get the donkey? And if anybody tells you, you know, why are you taking the donkey? You say, The Lord has need of it. And I went, Yes! He says, what you know that your brother Jim is emigrating to America? And I went, Yes. It says, Well, I feel like God wants us to say to Jim, 'the Lord has need of your car, Jim'. I went, No way. God is definitely not saying that. That'll cause a family row. There's no way I can do that. All my brothers are pastors and in fact all of us in my family are pastors; we all came into full time Christian work at some point during our journey. That's another story. But yeah, he was leaving his church down south in England, and he was going over to a church in America. So he wouldn't need his car. You know, he wouldn't be taking his car with him. And I said to me, no, no way. We can't do that. I definitely can't do that. And Ray said to me, Well, I tell you what, you go away and you pray about it, and if God says to you, yes, we should do it, then let's do it. If God says, No, it's a wrong word, then let's just forget about it. So I went away quite happy because I thought it was no, there's no way God's gonna say that to me. So I went away, and I prayed. And God said, Yes, that's what I want you to do. And I'm like, no. So I came back, and I said, Okay, Ray, let's do it. So I picked up the phone. And this woman of faith, picked up the phone and call my brother. And my brother said to me, oh, Nancy, hi. It's funny. I was just about to phone you. I said, Oh, really? Is this Yes. Tell me. He said, Tell me what you want. And I took a deep breath, you know, and said, Ray wants to speak to you. I could not do it, you know. So he went on the phone. He said, Jim, we're just wondering, you know, as you're immigrating to America, what are you doing with your car? And he says, Oh, he says, my car. I'll tell you what, he said, are you thinking you would like it? Well, I'll tell you what,

would you like to buy it? Well, I could give you it at a lower price, maybe £4200 pounds. And he said, What do you think of that? And Ray's spluttering and stammering and all the rest of it? And he said, Well, I'll tell you what, just go away and pray about it with Nancy, and come back to me in a week's time, and we can discuss it then. He put the phone down. Both of us knew we hadn't done what God had told us to do. We heard God clearly say, tell your brother, Jim, the Lord has need of your car, but we never did it. We spluttered and stammered and I gave the phone to Ray, I was like, no, no, we've not done it.

The very next day, we were going on holiday to Western Super Mare. Nothing wrong with Weston Super Mare, but we didn't particularly have a great holiday. Not because of the town, but because every day we got up and we spent time in God's word. And every day God said to us, you haven't done what I told you to do. Oh, my goodness, it was before there was mobile phones. This particular cottage that we had been given to have a holiday in, didn't have a phone in it. At the end of the week, we said, right, we're going home, and we're going to phone your brother and we're going to say, The Lord has need of your car, Jim. So on the way home, I said to Ray, tell you what Ray, I will be your prayer warrior, while you phone my brother. And I went upstairs in our house, and I went down on my knees before my bed and I prayed with the door shut. And I prayed loudly. And I just didn't want to hear my husband asked my brother for the car. Ray picked up the phone, and he called my brother and he said, Jim, I wanted to say to you that both Nancy and I bottled out of what God had told us to do last week. God told us to phone you up and say the Lord has need of your car, Jim. And he says that's fine, Ray, you can have it. Just like that! He says In fact, the other week I was just about to phone Nancy to say you can have our car. But when I spoke to her and to you, there was a check in my spirit from the Lord. He said I knew clearly that God had said, Don't say a word. So I came off the phone and my wife said to me, why didn't he give them the car? He says because I just felt it just wasn't right to do so. You know what he did then? He went forward in trying to sell that car. He put an advert in the paper. He had a personal radio program that he was on. And he advertised it on the radio program. He also advertised it to his church. And it was at a time when second hand cars were selling really quickly. He got not one enquiry, not one in that whole week, and he said to his wife, I just need one more confirmation that it's right to give Ray and Nancy the car. And

I believe God stopped my brother from giving us the car when I phoned up, because God wanted us to not just listen, but to obey and to trust him. So this verse in this particular story means a lot to me. I couldn't remember that really clearly.

But the disciples one learning to hear, obey and trust Jesus. They wouldn't fully have understood why Jesus needed a donkey. We wouldn't have fully understood. You know, how come this donkey is available to Jesus? And we have just to say the Lord has need of it. We wouldn't have understood all that. But firstly, the story was to fulfill prophecy. It was given in Zechariah nine verse nine that says this, 'Rejoice greatly see your king comes to you righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on the colt, on the foal of a donkey'. Secondly, it was not just fulfilling prophecy, but it was declaring that Jesus was the Messiah. He wasn't entering Jerusalem on a horse. He wasn't declaring that he was going to actually move the Romans out of Jerusalem, but he was coming as the Messiah. He was riding into Jerusalem, on a donkey, and that the donkey signifies humility and peace. And Jesus was bringing his peace. He was the Messiah bringing salvation and peace to this world. But did you know that a donkey in the Old Testament is actually a royal steed? So he was the king of kings. Disciples wouldn't have understood all that. But despite their questions, they went and got that donkey.

Let's read verse 10. I love this verse. I think it's very appropriate for this morning. 'When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, Who is this?' Oh, my goodness, don't you want that to happen in Bath? Where you walk in to the city of Bath, and the presence of God is so on you that people go Oh, my word? What is it about you? What is it? And you say, well, actually, it's Jesus. He's here. The city of Bath, or whatever city you come from, needs to hear that Jesus is the Messiah, needs to hear that he is the King of kings, Lord of lords. And when we as people, you know, hear what God is saying, let's obey him. One of the things that I did at a spiritual health weekend for women. We were praying for the spiritual, health weekend, and we were praying that the presence of God would be so honest that when we walked into this hotel, it was the Cotswold Water Park Hotel, the presence of God would walk into that place with us. And you know, when we went into the conference room, we prayed in there and we've asked God, God come with your spirit. Come, Lord, come and do something in here that perhaps we've never seen before. Oh, my goodness, the presence of God,

that it was so thick with the presence of God in that room, people come into it and go, Wow. And it wasn't what we did to this particular conference room that made it special. It wasn't that it had a window in it that looked out over the lake that the the hotel was situated beside. That was beautiful and wonderful and it's a win, but oh my goodness, that place was thick with a spirit of God in it. And people walked in going, Wow, God is here. You know, we want to see the people of Bath receive salvation don't we. But it starts with us, it starts with us having the Spirit of God on us so much.

Jesus entered Jerusalem fulfilling prophecy, declaring he was the Messiah, that He was the king of kings, and those who had ears to hear and eyes that were opened saw it. But others didn't. The children were declaring it all over the place, you know, and the church leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They didn't believe that he was the son of God. They didn't believe that he was a king of kings. And so they started to shout. The children who were crying out, hosanna, hosanna to the King of kings. The children knew and they spoke out truth about who Jesus was. The church leaders of the day were trying to cover up their own sin. What they were doing in the temple, I mean, that tells you something about what was happening in the temple that they made it, instead of a place a prayer, they made it a den of thieves. And Jesus said to the church leaders, and it's in verse 16, it says, 'Have you never read, from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?' In other words, haven't you read the scriptures? Don't you know the Bible? Don't you know the truth? Don't you know what the Scriptures are saying. And it's so important that actually, we do read this book. This book is so very precious, filled with truth. And we as his people need to read it, and discover what it's in.

I remember being in Scotland, preaching at a particular church. And after I'd spoken, there was quite a number of people who responded, and I was going round down the list of these people waiting to be prayed for, praying for each one. And I noticed this man at the very end, standing a little bit apart from the people who are wanting prayer, but I thought he must be wanting prayer. And I got up to him at the very end, it had taken quite a while, but he still stood there and waited. And the first thing he said to me was, 'you shouldn't be preaching. You're a woman. You're not allowed to preach.' And I was like, Oh, my goodness. This is just what I want. And I looked at him and I thought,

Oh, dear, and I'm praying inside saying, Lord, how do I deal with this ? I had just told the story of how, I think it was about six or eight months or whatever, previous, my husband had just died. And he said to me, 'if you had a husband, it would be fine. But because you haven't, you need to shut up and do not preach any longer'. And I was busy praying, Lord, what do I say to this man? So I said, very gently. I said, Tell me, are you a Christian? Yes. He said, I became a Christian last year. I said, alright, okay. And I had my Bible with me. And I said, and have you read this book? And he said, Yes, but what's that got to do with it? And I said, Well, I just want to ask you a question. Have you read the whole of the Bible? That's got nothing whatsoever to do with it. He said, nothing whatsoever to do with it. I said, Well, actually, it has. This is something I don't normally tell people, but it came out of my mouth really quickly. Where I said, I said, Well, actually, I have read the Bible from cover to cover, in fact, I've read it every year, from 1979. So I know what this book says. And I know how easy it is to take something that you've read in a verse and take it out of context. So it is important that you read the whole of the Bible. I said, I'll tell you what. I said, the man who actually invited me to speak here this morning, is just over there, he's the pastor of the church. Let me introduce you to him. And so I invited the pastor come over and I explained the situation. And I said to the man, I said, Look, I'm going to leave you with the pastor, he will answer all your questions. And I'm going to I'm going to leave now. Well, he got really angry, he didn't want me obviously to leave. And he didn't want to be left with the pastor either. And so I walked out of the church, and as I'm walking out of the church, he shouted at me, You're just as bad as that Joyce Meyer. I absolutely was shocked at what he said to begin with and then actually a big smile appeared on my face. And I thought actually, you might not know this, but that's a compliment. And the man did come back, I think about couple of years later and apologised to the the pastor. I don't think he had changed his mind in terms of his theology, but he did come back and apologise for his anger.

So let me ask you a question. Have you never read? We should be the ones that are shouting, singing, declaring who Jesus is. We should be the ones that are saying, Oh my goodness, he is incredible. He's wonderful. God is moving in supernatural ways in our time, this moment in time. You know, I said, I held her spiritual health we can for women, and oh, my goodness, God spoke to us before we went, God said, you're gonna see miracles there. And did we see miracles? Oh, yes, we certainly did. I mean, the

greatest miracle miracle that can ever happen is that someone becomes a Christian. And there were over 20 people who gave their lives to Christ. One lady ran to the front, because she couldn't wait to give her life to Jesus. Another lady who was there, and her doctor, had told her that she needed when she came back home from this weekend, she needed to go on dialysis for her kidneys were just no use. God gave her two brand new kidneys. And when she went home, her doctor said to her what happened to you? He says, because you don't need to go on dialysis. And that, in fact, your kidneys are absolutely fine. Another lady who had a mobility scooter, and this particular lady had no kneecap. And Zoe he got a word from God, word of knowledge that there'll be somebody there who didn't have a kneecap. And she gave it out. And this woman responded, and we prayed for her. And she hadn't walked for two years. She got up from our seat and she walked in the massive conference room, there was over what 450 women there. And she walked right to the end of the conference room, and through another conference room as well, to take communion. God had healed her. Incredible, you know, this is God. Another lady who was there had been abused badly when she was a child, by a church person, a pastor. She had various problems in her life because of this abuse. One of them, just to show you how bad it was, was her bladder was no longer able to function. She had no bladder because of what that man had done to her. She came forward in one of the sessions and I had spoken about forgiveness. And she said, Nancy, I want to forgive the man who did this to me. And so we sat down together, and she prayed an amazing prayer where she named the man and she prayed her forgiveness towards this particular man, she spoke it out in the name of Jesus. And she went home after the conference, and she went to her sister's house, because that's what had been arranged beforehand. And she spoke for two hours about what God had done with her at the spiritual health weekend. And her sister said her face was just glowing. And then she went to bed that night, and she was exhausted, obviously, from the weekend, and from all the talking that she had done, and she slept for 10 hours. Now, that's remarkable. I'll tell you why. Before the weekend, she couldn't sleep for any longer than two hours at one time. And she would wake up, having had a dream that she'd been abused again, and she would wake up terrified and shouting out in the trauma that she was going through again and again. That night, no drama. She had a completely brilliant night where she slept all the way through. This is God. This is God in our nation at this time. I'm going to tell you God is doing incredible things in our nation

right now. There was a lady who came to my weekend and she wrote to me, and I only received the letter I think about a week ago. And she said Nancy, I had a spinal condition and had suffered for many years with a bad back. She said she was diagnosed as having arthritis of the spine, crumbling of the spine. She had degenerated disc disease. Her mobility was just at an all time low. She was on crutches. She was in constant pain, and not even the prescribed morphine would touch it. And she eventually was on 15 medications, prescribed medications to take three times a day. She was then told she'd have to wait for years to get her spinal surgery. She had to give up work. And her family was just in a complete mess. And she prayed, she got prayed for at the weekend. And God did a miracle. She got a brand new spine. And the doctors are just stunned at what God has done. They don't see it's God, they just think this incredible, what's happened to you? And she's able to walk freely without any aids, she's in no pain whatsoever. Her spine is absolutely fine.

I want to say to you, God wants to move in this nation at this time with miracles. And we're seeing things happen that you've perhaps never seen before. God wants us to be people who are so filled with the Spirit of God, that when we walk into a place, like Jesus walked into Jerusalem, and everybody said, Who is this man? What's going on? And when we are so filled with the presence of God, I tell you, people will say to you, what's happened to you? What's going on with you? Do you want to see that happen in your time? Do you want to see it happen in your family? With your friends? I'm sure you do. Can I invite you just to say to the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit calm, drench me fill me full of Jesus, that people don't see me, but they see Jesus. That's my constant prayer, that people won't see me but they'll see Jesus. And that people will see that it's possible when Jesus meets them, that they have a miracle happen in their life.

You know, God's here this morning. And he's saying to you, Have you never read...? And if you've never read the whole of the Bible, can I say to you, I'm going to challenge you. Get a Bible planner to help you and go through the Bible in one year. If you feel that one year is too much for you then do it in two years. God changed me through reading the Bible. He did. And when I started it, I just couldn't stop. And I'm still finding things in this book that I never noticed where they are even although I've read all those many times. God is amazing. The gems in this book are incredible. If we only would believe what this

book says, we would see miracles. So can I challenge you today? Are you ready to say to Jesus, to say to the Holy Spirit, come, come Holy Spirit come, fill me that when I walk into a room somewhere, people see me and see Jesus in front of me. Because that's what that's where he is. He's in front of us, he's the best bodyguard ever, he's in front of us, behind us, he's on the right hand side, he's on the left hand side. If you're a Christian, he lives inside of you, and you live inside of him. Oh my goodness, if whatever you're facing today, that's your bodyguard Wow. Let's pray. And I'm gonna ask if your response to Jesus is to say to him, God, I want you to have control of my life. I want you to take every single bit of me. And Lord, just helped me when I walk in somewhere that I have your presence with me, and that your presence goes before me and affects the people that I meet.

If you're not a Christian here today, then I can just say to you, this would be a great day to become a Christian, this would be a great day to meet the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Messiah, the one who's here, the one that can change your life. So if you want to become a Christian, or if you want to say to God, God, I want you I want to give you all of my life and I want you to so fill me God. You know, the whole city is being stirred because of you in my life. Nobody else is looking. So if you just want to put your hand up, I'm going to pray for everyone who puts their hands up. Just from the front. Yeah, that's great. Thank you, Lord. Thank You, God. Thank You, Lord. In praying, I want to use a worship song that I only heard a few months ago. But it's an incredible song that just penetrates my heart and life so much. And I want you to make this your prayer. If you have your hands raised, Make this your prayer. The words say: 'We have heard of all the stories, how He healed the deaf and blind. You did miracles and wonders, would you repeat them in our time. Lord, we thank you for your presence, and that you promised not to leave. Come clothe us with your power. Come and set the captives free. Here your people crying out 'Holy Spirit would you come'? We still believe that you're moving, that you are with us on this day. Help us to see what you're doing. We don't want to get in your way. Here your people crying out. Holy Spirit, would you come? Here your people crying out Holy Spirit which you've come. We've prayed our prayers have made our plans. If you're not in it, we don't want it. Oh, God, would you move? Only you can heal our land. Holy Spirit, come and fill us all God. Would you move? Lord, I just pray that right now for every person who has their hands raised. I want to ask You God to fill

each person here with the presence of Jesus. And that Lord, you would just move in their life in such an incredible way that Lord they would know that something happened today. Palm Sunday, something happened in their life today. And that they are a transformed person. That's what we're praying for God. God, we just asked you to come and move in each of us and may Your presence fill us to overflowing. Amen