



Ride on in majesty

This piece focuses on the disciples procuring a colt for Jesus entry into Jerusalem. It requires three actors and three off-stage voices – two readers and the donkey owner. It also needs a few men just to make disciple numbers to walk on and off stage with Jesus in the opening scene.

Two of the actors are two of Jesus (the other actor) disciples, one very trusting of what Jesus asks, the other a doubting sceptic.

Reader 1:

Reading from Zechariah chapter 9, verses 9 & 10

Everyone in Jerusalem,
celebrate and shout!
Your king has won a victory,
and he is coming to you.
He is humble
and rides on a donkey;
he comes on the colt
of a donkey.
¹⁰ I, the Lord, will take away
war chariots and horses
from Israel^[a] and Jerusalem.
Bows that were made for battle
will be broken.
I will bring peace to nations,
and your king will rule
from sea to sea.
His kingdom will reach
from the Euphrates River
across the earth.

Reader 2:

Amazingly, 500 years later history records an incident as Jesus approaches Jerusalem for the annual festival and for what would transpire to be his last journey there. In fact, so significant that it is recorded in three of the gospel narratives. Jesus and his disciples came to the villages of Bethany and Bethphage at the foot of the Mount of Olives which is on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Jesus followed by disciples walk up from congregation shatting among themselves to a point on stage where Jesus stops, turning to them.....

Jesus:

We're nearly in Jerusalem now lads. Let's take a rest and have a cup of tea here before we go the last bit.....there's a cafe over there, let's stop there for a few minutes.

One of the disciples:

Great! I could murder a cup of tea right now

Jesus:

But there is something I need to help us on our waywould two of you please go ahead of us and on the way you will see a young donkey that has never been ridden tied by a house at the roadside. Just untie it and bring it to me please. If anyone asks you what you are doing taking the donkey, just say to them 'the Lord needs it' and they will let you have it.

Let me see....maybe Thomas and Andrew, would you do that for me please.....and we'll meet you back at the café in 15 minutes?

Andrew:

Sounds a bit unorthodox, but sure...we'll do as you ask

The two, going on the errand, walk on stage

Alternatively, with a few extra bodies, Jesus & co walk off leaving the two

Thomas:

Why did he have to pick usand what on earth does he want an untamed donkey for anyway?

Andrew:

Well, I suppose we'd better do what he asked – he often has plans we don't understand..... remember that business with feeding all those people from two bread rolls.

Thomas:

Yes.....will I ever forget!I felt a right Wally starting out to thousands of people with just a bit of bread roll in my hands..... I hope this isn't going to be another of those embarrassing situations.

Andrew:

But didn't it work out fine in the end? In fact it certainly made people sit up and take notice that he might actually be God.

Thomas:

Oh, I suppose. But look at our situation now. We are expected to go to a stranger's house and without a word just take a donkey foal from before his very eyes. Couldn't we at least ask? And what will he say when we tell him 'our boss just wants it!' As if that gives us a right to just take it. The man's likely to call the Gardai and get us arrested.

Andrew:

But don't you think Jesus had thought of all that? When he sent us, didn't he tell us exactly how it would work out? And anyway if we did ask, the man might say 'no' and then Jesus wouldn't have a colt. Or maybe he would have given us a trained adult donkey instead.....but Jesus needs an untamed colt.....beats me what for....but he'll have a good reason. So, c'mon...let's go.

(As they set out walking)

Thomas:

I still don't like it....I would much prefer to make my own plan. Anyway, how are we going to take an untamed foal on a lead?

Andrew:

Have you no faith at all.....after all we've seen him do?

(they walk off stage, continuing talk)

Look, there is the place....and it's just as Jesus said

Thomas:

Yes.....and the man of the house is there.....oh, I don't like the look of this at all.

Andrew:

You can't chicken out now.

Thomas:

Well....I'll untie the colt and you deal with the owner.....*(to donkey)*.....easy boy....hey, you're a frisky lad....come on *(said as if there was a struggle)*

Owner:

Hey you....what do you think you're doing...that's my colt

Thomas:

I told you so

Andrew: *(to the owner)*

The Lord told us to tell you he needs it

Owner:

Oh...I don't know your Lord. But something tells me this is important....so, go on, you can take it. But don't try riding it - I've only just started breaking it in and nobody's tried getting on its back yet.

Andrew:

Thankyou so much, the Lord will be pleased. We will bring it back shortly.

(as they pretend to walk)

Thomas:

C'mon boy

Andrew:

He is being marvellously cooperative, isn't he?

Thomas:

He's got a lovely coat....and look, the cross on his back is well defined.

Now, Jesus, here it is

Jesus:

Well done lads.

(walking back on stage – Jesus off stage)

Andrew:

So, Jesus, what next?

Jesus:

We are going to make a procession into Jerusalem.....and just watch how the crowds will join in

And what are you going to do with the colt?

Ride it of course...it's going to be a royal procession!

Thomas:

Oh no.....it's not been broken in.....oh no, he's going to try anyway....that donkey for sure will rear up and throw him off.....it'll be like a rodeo rather than a procession.....and he'll look right foolish - we'll be the laughing stock.....particularly us for not bringing a trained one.

Andrew:

Just wait and see how he handles it

Thomas:

Hey.....look at that.....the..the..donkey's....behaving miraculously...as if it was suddenly programmed.

Congregation will join in

Hosanna in the highest – Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord – mixture of what the crowd sang.

Thomas:

Oh dear! I've done it again.....i keep doubting him when I ought to know better by now...I think maybe I need to be more trusting about what Jesus asks.

Andrew: *(to congregation)*

How about you?

Piece of music starting to over-play last line – 'Praise is rising'

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