

The Lord Has Need Of Him

Joe Slater

Technically, God doesn't "need" anything. Rather, it is He who "*gives to all life, breath, and all things*" (Acts 17:25). However, as Jesus was on His way into Jerusalem less than a week before He was crucified, He sent two disciples ahead to get a donkey colt for Him to ride into the city.

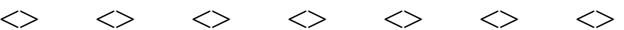
Anticipating that the owners might object to the colt being taken, Jesus told the disciples to explain, "*The Lord has need of him*" (Luke 19:34). Now, Jesus had the supernatural ability to provide donkeys for Himself, His disciples, and everyone else in the city! Instead, He chose to use one belonging to willing people. Once the disciples told the owners that the Lord needed their colt, there was no further objection.

Jesus often used the generosity of others. Foxes had holes, birds had nests, but Jesus had no place to lay His head (Luke 9:58). Being a carpenter, could He not have built His own place? Or could He not have miraculously supplied this and all His other day-to-day needs? Of course He could, but He chose to accept the hospitality of good people like Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Even when His body was taken down from the cross, it was buried in a tomb belonging not to Jesus, but to Joseph of Arimathea.

What might you have that the Lord needs? You might think in terms of dollars, but money, while important, is not all the Lord needs from you. How about your time? Reading the Bible, praying, attendance, teaching, and helping those in need, all take time. They also take work; the Lord needs your physical and mental energy.

Does the Lord need your family members? Teachers, deacons, elders, preachers, and other workers do not appear out of thin air! Your family members will be hindered in serving unless you support them. Family obligations are important and should not be neglected; however, you must not allow selfishness to hinder their service. You might prefer that your children and grandchildren live close to home with high-paying jobs in secure professions; but the Lord may need them in another community – or another state – or (dare I say it?) in another country, teaching the unsearchable riches of Christ. Are you willing to give the Lord what He needs?

I hope that one day, when we get to Heaven, we can talk to those men who owned the donkey colt Jesus rode. What all went through their minds? The Lord had need of him. That was all that mattered. May God help us to adopt their perspective!



The Power of Sin

Sin is not stagnant. It never stays in one place, person, family, community, or country. A judge may sequester a jury, and a doctor may quarantine a sick patient, but no man or earthly power can isolate sin. Sin stalks its victim as a hunter does his prey. Sin slithers like a snake, inserting its venom of death into the veins of those who bear the image of God. Sin marches like locusts over the landscape of humanity, leaving a world of human wreckage in its wake. Sin is a vulture, feasting on its own handiwork. Adam and Eve's transgressions initiated a stream of sin that proved torrential in its power and worldwide in its scope.

--Frank Chesson (via House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart)

Diary of a Bible

January: A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks, but they have forgotten me now.

February: Cleanup time. I was dusted yesterday and put in my place. My owner used me for a few minutes last week. He had an argument and was looking up some references to prove he was right.

March: Had a busy day the first of the month. My owner was elected president of the PTA and used me to prepare a speech.

April: Grandpa visited us this month. He kept me on his lap for an hour reading 1st Corinthians 13. He seems to think more of me than others in my own household!

May: I have a few green stains on my pages. Some spring flowers were pressed in my pages.

June: I look like a scrapbook. They have stuffed me full of newspaper clippings; one of the girls got married.

July: They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we are off on vacation. I wish I could stay home; I know I'll be closed up in this thing for at least two weeks.

August: Still in the suitcase.

September: Back home at last in my old familiar place. I have lots of company – two women's magazines and four comic books are stacked on top of me. I wish I could be read as much as they are.

October: They read me a little today. One of them is very sick. Right now I am sitting in the middle of the coffee table. I think the preacher is coming to visit.

November: Back in my old place. Somebody asked today if I was a scrapbook.

December: The family is busy getting ready for the holidays. I guess I'll be covered up under wrapping paper and packages again . . . just as I am every Christmas.