

Lent Day 34
Saturday March 19, 2016

Reading: Mark 11.1-11

Reflection

Does God have a plan? That was a big question for me for a long time. What I meant by it was, is God in control of the events in my life, or are these just random events? I wasn't always confident that God was intentionally bringing me somewhere.

This question mainly centred around my call to pastoral ministry. In 1995 Jesus laid ahold of my life and I decided quite quickly that I wanted to go to bible college and become a pastor. At bible college I met my wife and we decided to get married while finishing our education part-time. But, instead I found myself out of school with no way back. And as we added kids and job demands it looked more and more like I wasn't going back. Did God have a plan? Yes, but what was it?

When we come to this passage of Scripture it's not immediately clear what it might be saying to us, but I think it points to the fact that God has a plan. I remember reading this Scripture in the past and thinking it was about Jesus' supernatural powers — he knew about the donkey! But, as you look at what scholars say around this passage the reality is, Jesus has prearranged to use this donkey similar to his prearranging the upper room for the passover. The language he gives to the disciples is to let the people know this was prearranged.

So, what looks haphazard at first read is in fact an organized plan being executed. That's the same with my own story. I needed to be out of bible college because the lessons I needed to learn to become a pastor were not found there. So much brokenness in my life and history needed to be addressed before I would even be ready to finish my education. So, at the right time I went back and finished my education. And at the right time I stepped into pastoral ministry. The events of my life were not random, God had a plan.

God has a plan for you. The events of your life aren't random. It may not be immediately plain how the events fit together, but I assure you they do. If this is something you're struggling with take time to seek after God. His plans for you are good.

Prayer

Lord who brought order out of chaos, give us the eyes to see your hand in the events of our lives. Grant us the confidence to know that you are working for good in our lives, in the lives of those who love you. Amen.