

I start with a story I heard long ago. About a horse-racing stables and old Henry, who had been a stable-hand there all his life. On this particular day, Saturday, he was pottering around checking harnesses and things, as you do, I guess.

The owner poked his head over stable door. Why don't you come to church in the morning, Henry? I know you don't usually go but it's Palm Sunday, a special sort of day.

Actually Henry never went to church, even as a kid, and he wasn't going to start now. The owner pulled rank and Henry gave in. The service ended proceeded and everyone headed for the door. All Except Henry who didn't move. "The service is over." said the owner Henry wouldn't budge.

"I want to hear more about that jockey!"

You see, I know my horses, and I can tell you that anyone who could ride an unbroken Arab colt through a mob of screaming, shouting people, waving palm branches in its face, is NO ORDINARY MAN. Will you tell me more about him?

And the owner sat down and did what the apostle Philip did with the Ethiopian VIP. (Acts 8) He told Henry what the Bible says about Jesus.

Whether my story was true or made up it doesn't matter. What it says DOES! For us as Christians and the Henrys of this world! A lot of them. They say I don't go to church.. I believe I can live a decent life without going to church. I don't need the doctrine, which is

exactly what they do need. They need to hear 'the truth as it is in Jesus.'

Back to Palm Sunday. Jesus was deliberately fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah. There was no need for SECRECY. He had SEVEN DAYS left on earth before they kill him. Now the time HAS come. He's out IN THE OPEN and IN CONTROL. The CROWDs are shouting, praising God for the miracles they had seen, praying for a Saviour, (HOSANNA) and the religious leaders are WORRIED.

"Tell the crowd to stop!"

Jesus says..."If they stop, the stones will cry out." What a temptation to pipe down and see another miracle! Talking pavements! But The shouting goes on.

The disciples had seen him calming a vicious Galilean storm on at least two occasions, walking over the water to calm the disciples fears, cope with a lynch mob, calm a demon- possessed lunatic. They had seen Him in control BEFORE. Glimpses, INKLINGS of divine power. So they wouldn't be SURPRISED.

Nor are we, with HIND-SIGHT and the New Testament in our hands. Within two decades of the Death and resurrection this is what was being written about the Jockey of Palm Sunday. COLOSSIANS 1verses 13,14,15,16; HEBREWS chapter 1 verses 1and 2; JOHN chapter 1 verses 3,4 Philippians 2 verses 6-11. From now, on the NAME JESUS is joined to another - KURIOS meaning LORD, the ONE in authority, in control.

It's the word used of God - adonai (Yahweh) in the Greek version of the Old testament. In the New Testament, apart from the gospels, the name of Jesus is hardly ever used by itself. YES, he is JESUS, SAVIOUR, but he's MUCH MORE. Peter on the day of Pentecost

says 'This Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. He's 'Lord' 'Lord Jesus', 'Jesus Christ the Lord', The Lord Jesus Christ... but invariably LORD.

Back to Palm Sunday...and Henry's jockey - Jesus, LORD, in control.

The Saviour and Lord we need. An old song SAYS...

The Saviour has come in His mighty power... and all of my life from this very hour, is yielded to His control'. Jesus the Lord helping us to be in control of the UNRULY things which can spoil our lives and witness - Pride, self-centredness, touchiness, envy, prejudice, and the things which ruin our peace - fear, worry, self-pity, resentment and more - the things we should take to Him.

Even the great St PAUL struggled at times. We're in good company!

Read Romans 7. 22 The things I don't want to do, I do and vice versa....I'm a prisoner. Who will set me free? Answer - verse 25.

Thanks be to God! Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

We don't have to give in. Call on the controller. LET HIM BE IN CHARGE. LET HIM BE lord.

LET HIM TAKE THE REINS!