

Matthew 21:1-11

(Lectionary Year A, Lent 6 Palm Sunday)

By Beth Barnett

A very easy puppet script presenting the Bible passage.

The puppeteer doesn't need to speak, but makes donkey noises and holds up signs to communicate. This kind of puppeting is very simple and could be done by someone of any age.

You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A confident Host• A donkey puppet (or a person in a donkey suit/onesie)• Six large signs:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Like Jesus○ Crowds excited○ Didn't understand Jesus○ Not what they expected○ Jesus died○ Jesus came back• Book with fake cover: "Day of the Donkey" – including Bible text printed and inserted into the book <p>Optional into and outro music (see Themes and Thumps CD)</p>
Time required:	5-6 minutes

Script

Host: Ladies and Gentlemen, Scoundrels and Scapegoats, Spinners and Keepers, Smarties and Jelly Beans, today we have, at great expense to the management, a most famous celebrity Donkey of all time. More famous than Mr Ed the talking horse, more entertaining than Donkey in Shrek, deeper than Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh...Yes, folks, today we talk to Digby Donkey, so let's hear it for Digby!!!!

(Crowd goes wild... encourage the crowd to go wild)

Digby Donkey appears wearing sunglasses, nodding to various sections of the audience.

Host: Well, Digby, it's great to have you here. You are very very famous. I believe, but can you tell us why?
How does a humble donkey, such as yourself, come to be a star?

Digby brays expressively as if explaining.

Host: Ah ha, hmmm....mmmmm...aha, ah ha. Did we all get that boys and girls? No? Digby, it seems that not everyone understands what you are on about. We're all really excited that you're here though, aren't we?
Crowd cheers ecstatically again and Digby brays again

Host: Yes, well – this is a little awkward – umm, well, let's talk about your book. Let me fill the audience in on a few details from your biography "Day of the Donkey"....

Display fake book cover and Digby brays again.

Host: Oh, sorry? Actually it's from the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament – in the Bible. Wow!

Digby brays again.

Host: AND it's in your biography. This is an incident from when you were just a young colt, isn't it? Let's read a little bit....
(turn to the printed insert in the book)

When Jesus and his disciples came near Jerusalem, he went to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and sent two of them on ahead. He told them, "Go into the next village, where you will at once find a donkey and her colt.

So that's you, Digby?

Digby brays and nods.

Continue:

Untie the two donkeys and bring them to me. If anyone asks why you are doing that, just say, 'The Lord needs them.' Right away he will let you have the donkeys." So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "Announce to the people of Jerusalem: 'Your king is coming to you! He is humble and rides on a donkey. He comes on the colt of a donkey.'" The disciples left and did what Jesus had told them to do. They brought the donkey and its colt and laid some clothes on their backs. Then Jesus got on. Many people spread clothes in the road, while others put down branches which they had cut from trees. Some people walked ahead of Jesus and others followed behind. They were all shouting, "Hooray for the Son of David! God



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bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hooray for God in heaven above!”
When Jesus came to Jerusalem, everyone in the city was excited and asked, “Who can this be?”

Digby brays very excitedly.

Host: Girls and boys, I’m still not exactly sure what Digby donkey is trying to say.

Digby brays in frustration and disappears.

Host: Oh, no! Digby, where have you gone? Girls and boys, what’s happened to Digby?

It was great to have him here, even though I didn’t fully understand him. Did you understand him? No not really, me neither. But now he’s gone I’m really disappointed. Oh dear!

Digby brays from behind the screen then reappears with a sign saying “Like Jesus.”

Host: What’s this – good to have you back Digs. Let’s read this together – “Like Jesus”. What is? What’s like Jesus?

Digby brays in frustration and disappears again and reappears 5 more times, each time presenting one of the following signs.

Crowds excited!

Didn’t understand Jesus

Not what they were expecting

Jesus died

Jesus came back

With each sign that Digby presents, the host chooses a volunteer to hold that sign, as Digby disappears to get the next.

Host: Oooohhhh....I see, Digby. When Jesus entered through the gates of the city riding on a donkey, the crowds were excited to see him – just like we were all so excited to see you!

Digby brays enthusiastically.

Host: Hmmm. Crowds excited...Didn’t understand Jesus...Ahhh. But just like I didn’t really understand what you were doing before, the crowds didn’t understand what Jesus was doing. They didn’t understand that he was going to be killed, and then come back to life again...

Digby brays in agreement.

Host: Now I get it! Well Digby, you really are a sensational donkey. It has been great to have you here today! One more big cheer for Digby!



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