



COLTS FOR CHRIST

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*“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just, and having salvation,
Lowly, and riding on a donkey,
A colt, the foal of a donkey”
(Zechariah 9: 9).*

Prior to the time Christ went to the cross at Calvary and was crucified, He rode triumphantly into Jerusalem as prophesied long ago by the prophet Zechariah. However, before that Easter weekend, there was Christmas, the time when Jesus Christ was born as a baby in a manger into our world, which we celebrate now.

Before Christ chose to ride on that colt that day triumphantly into Jerusalem, He had first chosen the human colt He rode triumphantly into the world. The very choice of a colt by Christ in itself is instructive. Although, the King of kings and Lord of lords, He left His throne of glory in Heaven and chose the

form of man to come into our world. He could have chosen otherwise. This is true humility!

The Lord was right in His choice of Mary as a 'colt' to bring Him into the world. Had many daughters of Zion known then that the Messiah was to be born and a virgin was needed to bring Him into the world, they would have lived a better life of purity and perhaps make the competition very keen that Mary herself would have to jostle for a place or chance. Unfortunately that was not to be the case. Many of those young women though, outwardly beautiful and admired by men, were already disqualified and tagged unfit for the Master's use. Many of them had lived a reckless youth life and so, stood defiled and rejected before God.

Mary, like a colt was young, innocent and meek. She distinguished herself in righteousness among her peers. She resisted ungodly peer-group pressure and did not give in to the common youthful lusts that lure many young women into sin and make them forfeit their virginity and chastity long before marriage. It was not difficult then for her just and lowly Lord to single her out of the lot and use her as a colt to bring Christ, the Saviour to the world. Obviously, she was a vessel of honour, full of virtues and now stands out in scripture as a challenge to all young women of our time.

Joseph also, was a responsible young man. He was humble and obedient enough to accept the pregnancy that was not his because God told him so. He was just enough to steer clear of Mary and did not touch her until Christ was born. Too many young men these days are not discreet in their relationship with ladies. They eventually defile their marriage beds before the set time. The truth however, is that anyone who does not learn self-control and discipline in courtship cannot learn it in marriage. If a man cannot control himself in a courtship of few months or years, how would he cope in marriage if, by sickness or travel, he is separated from his spouse for a long period of time? Little wonder then that many now, though married, still fall into sexual immorality. It's a shame.

Again, Joseph, fathered the growing child responsibly though, he was only his foster-father. Men, then and now would have called this man of God all manner of names. Though, he was seen as a fool before men, he was a saint before God. Could Joseph and Mary be of like passion as we are or are they from another planet? Can we find the likes of this couple again in our generation? In this generation where, the vice of promiscuity is fashionable

while the virtue of virginity is scorned and considered out-dated. The scourge of HIV and AIDS notwithstanding, immorality is rife and the demons responsible are catching more and more younger souls. We surely need to learn some lessons from Joseph and Mary, the human parents of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God still has lots of assignments to carry out in this generation. He is still in dire need of men and women to use to carry out these tasks and fulfil His great counsel. Like Mary and Joseph yielded themselves to God as colts to bring Christ into the world, we also can yield ourselves to Him now to carry out His plans and purposes in life.

However, if we must be used of God this way, we must share the unique attributes of the colt and Christ. However highly placed or richly endowed we may be, we must be meek and lowly at heart because God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (Jam.4: 6). The Lord Jesus Christ does not ride proud horses; He chooses lowly colts instead. Again, we must be just and upright if we must be colts for Christ. We cannot be vessels for the just King if we ourselves have not been justified.

The Psalmist illustrates it clearly this way in Psalm 15: 1- 5:

***“Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
He who walks uprightly and works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;
He who does not backbite with his tongue,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he honours those who fear the LORD,
He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
He who does these things shall never be moved”.***

It is only as we meet up with these laid down conditions of God and purge ourselves of every form of defilement and filth that we can truly be used as colts for Christ. We should therefore take a cue from Joseph and Mary and imbibe their godly virtues.