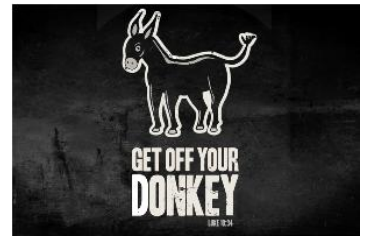




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**Get Off Your Donkey-  
Nehemiah  
Nehemiah 2:1-10**



This month we take a focused look at what comforts and barriers keep us from stepping forward to do awesome things for Christ. Simply put, we're using the phrase "Get Off Your Donkey" to represent how we can step out from our comfort zone to do things others are either choosing not to do or are unable to. Take the story of the "Good" Samaritan for example (**Luke 10:30-37**). Seeing a man naked and beaten in the middle of the path to Jericho, both a priest and a Levite saw the man but passed by on the OTHER SIDE (picture ravine, path on one side, loose rock and long falls awaiting those venturing off the path). THEN, it says a "despised" Samaritan (NLT) came along and SAW the man, took pity on him, bandaged his owies, and saw it through to the end.

Often times the biggest step to serving the world around is the actual stepping out of our comfort zone into uncertainty. The Samaritan would have been extremely safe and comfortable on his donkey. Even with the possibility looming of the Jewish man refusing to thank or show appreciation to the man that helped him, he did it anyway. Through this series, we'll look at several different characters in the Bible who chose to "Get off Their Donkey" in order to do great things in the name of the Lord!

Let's take **Nehemiah** for example. Here's a little insight into who he was and where he lived:

- Nehemiah is the cupbearer (wine taster) to the Persian Emperor Artaxerxes
- This occurs in the 140<sup>th</sup> year of the Hebrews exile to Babylon.
- Nehemiah was best known for his devotion to prayer.

Nehemiah did 3 key things we find in **Nehemiah 2:1-10** that give us a great early on example of what it takes to get off your donkey.

- The first thing he did was conquer his fear. In verse 2b of Chapter 2 we see him say, "*I was very much afraid, BUT.*" **BUT he didn't let his fear win!!! What are some things you're afraid of? Are there some ways you can begin to overcome your fear like Nehemiah did instead of letting it cripple you from doing something great for God?**
- The second thing he did was "*PRAY TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN*" verse 4,5. The King asked him what he wanted, and Nehemiah knowing he couldn't do it in his own strength asked God for help. **Is this something you think you can do a better job at? What are some ways you can go about asking God for help when you need strength?**
- The last thing he did was... You guessed it! He got off his donkey! Nehemiah left all that was familiar and comfortable and made the brave step to go forward in plans to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He left the comfortable palace, his friends, and his job close to the king of the most powerful nation in that day to move into danger, uncertainty and step out in faith. **What are some things you KNOW you need to do that would require you to do something uncomfortable or step out in faith that maybe you've been afraid to do up to this point? What are some things that make you comfortable that possibly prevent you from moving forward?**

**Making it Stick:**

Here are a few questions to ask yourself today as we look at the series ahead:

**What does your donkey look like and how is it holding you back from stepping out and serving those who need you?**

**Why do you think it's important to conquer your comfort zone?**

**How do you think we can expect God to help keep you safe while you serve him?**