

THE DONKEY

Jesus and His disciples were walking to Jerusalem. As they came near the city Jesus stopped and said, "Go to the village and you will find a young donkey". "Untie him and bring him to me". Jesus' helpers obeyed Him and found the donkey tied just as Jesus had said. They brought the little donkey to Jesus. They spread their robes on the donkey's back and Jesus climbed on and began to ride into the city of Jerusalem.

By this time nearly everyone in Jerusalem knew who Jesus was and there were many people in Jerusalem this time of year for the Passover Feast. A crowd began to gather around Jesus and the donkey. They thought this was going to be a special day when Jesus would become King over all Judea. The men and women spread their coats on the ground in front of them as they "clip clopped" into the city. The crowd was singing and shouting and praising God. They were yelling, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Praise to Jesus" they said as they threw flowers on the road ahead of Him.

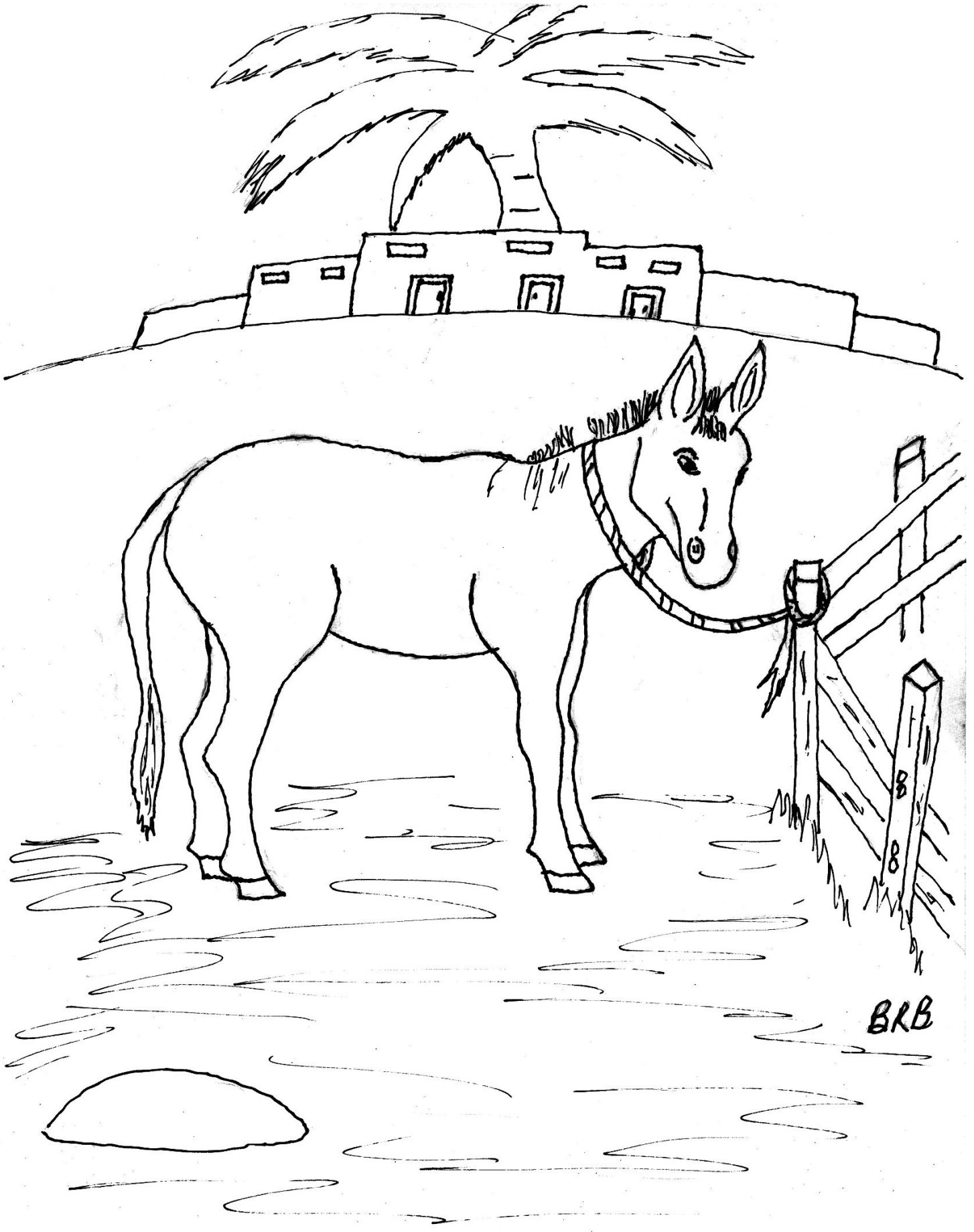
There were some priests that were not happy to see the people singing praises to Jesus. They asked Jesus to stop the crowd from singing and making so much noise. But Jesus said "Let the children sing".

The donkey carried Jesus to the top of the Mount of Olives. Clip, clop, clip, clop went the hooves. Jesus stopped right at the top of the Mount of Olives and looked over the city of Jerusalem and sobbed while everyone else was singing. Jesus was sobbing because He said, "Oh Jerusalem, Oh Jerusalem, how I love you but many of your people will not love Me". "Many bad things will happen to you because you do not love me and you will not believe what I say". Jesus knew He would soon die for the sins of the world and He also knew that many of the people He loved would turn away from Him.

Jesus was the greatest King that ever lived. He was not filled with pride as the other kings were. Jesus rode a donkey because He was a humble man and the donkey served Him well.

The donkey is very gentle and patient and can carry very heavy loads. The donkey loves his master and the Bible says he will run to his master even in a large crowd. The Bible says that sometimes a donkey is more grateful to his master than we are for our Master, Jesus. The world thinks a donkey is rather dull and sleepy and stubborn but the Bible used the donkey to teach us that we should be as faithful and obedient to God as the donkey is to his master.

Memory verse: The donkey knows ... his master...Isaiah 1:3.



BRB