

Mark 11:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him.

Analysis

They went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met (εὗρον πῶλον δεδεμένον πρὸς θύραν ἔξω ἐπὶ τοῦ ἀμφόδου) —Mark's characteristic precision provides vivid details: the colt was tied outside a door at a crossroads. The Greek amphodon (ἀμφόδου) means a street or place where two ways meet. This geographical precision authenticates eyewitness testimony—likely Peter's recollections, since early church tradition identifies Mark's Gospel as based on Peter's preaching. The disciples found everything **just as Jesus had told them**, confirming His prophetic knowledge.

And they loose him (λύουσιν αὐτόν)—the verb lyō (λύω, "loose") appears three times in this passage (vv. 2, 4, 5), emphasizing the act of unbinding. Symbolically, Jesus "looses" what is bound—He liberates captives (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18). The untamed colt, loosed and brought to Jesus, represents humanity: wild and unruly until brought under Christ's lordship, then miraculously submissive and useful for kingdom purposes.

Historical Context

Mark's Gospel, likely written for Roman Christians in the mid-60s AD, preserves vivid details suggesting eyewitness sources. The specific mention of the crossroads location would have been meaningful to original readers familiar with Jerusalem's topography. Archaeological excavations have identified Bethphage's approximate location on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope. The detail that the colt was tied

"outside" suggests it was tethered in a public or semi-public space, explaining why bystanders questioned the disciples (v. 5). Ancient Near Eastern villages often had communal areas where animals were kept. The fulfillment of Jesus' precise prediction would have strengthened the disciples' faith as they approached the culmination of Jesus' ministry—if He knew about the colt's location, He also knew about His impending death and resurrection.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do the precise details Mark records authenticate the historical reliability of this account as based on eyewitness testimony?
2. What spiritual parallels can be drawn between the bound colt being 'loosed' and brought to Jesus and humanity's need for liberation from sin?
3. How does Jesus' accurate prediction strengthen faith when facing uncertainty about God's plans?

Interlinear Text

ἀπῆλθον	δὲ	καὶ	εὗρον	τὸν	πῶλον	δεδεμένον	πρὸς
they went their way	And	and	found	G3588	the colt	tied	by
G565	G1161	G2532	G2147		G4454	G1210	G4314

τὴν	θύραν	ἔξω	ἐπὶ	τοῦ	ἀμφόδου	καὶ
G3588	the door	without	in	G3588	a place where two ways met	and
G2374	G1854	G1909			G296	G2532

λύουσιν	αὐτόν
they loose	him
G3089	G846

