

A script from



“Untie the Donkey: Worry”

by
Don Bosley

- What** Two of the Lord’s disciples are sent to fetch the donkey that will carry Jesus into the city. Problem is, the donkeys refuse to be untied—in this case, from their worries. (Note: The *Untie the Donkeys* skits can each be played stand-alone, or as a five-week series culminating on or near Palm Sunday.)
Themes: Surrender, Worldliness, Spiritual Bondage, Faithfulness, God’s Purposes, Worry, Trust, Palm Sunday
- Who** Bart
Andy
Dennis
Maude
Reader
- When** Present. More or less.
- Wear (Props)** “Hitching post” that says *Worries* on it
Two lengths of rope
- Why** Matthew 6:25-34; Matthew 8:18-22; James 4:4; Mark 4:1-20; Matthew 13:22
- How** The ropes are the key pieces of imagery, with one looped around Dennis’ neck and tied off to the hitching post, and the other similarly tethering Maude. Liberated from bondage to be used for Christ’s purposes, we often tie ourselves right back up again. The untying and retying can be a fun physical shtick that pounds the point. Some troupes have put Bart and Andy in biblical garb to emphasize their disciple identity, but they can also be played in modern-day clothing.
- Time** Approximately 4 minutes

Dennis and Maude are standing, anxiously looking offstage, as if waiting for a bus. Each has a length of rope looped around their neck, and the other end tied to a singular hitching post that says "Worries".

Reader: "As they approached Jerusalem...Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.'"

Bart and Andy enter, not yet seeing Dennis and Maude.

Bart: Goat.

Andy: No.

Bart: Ostrich.

Andy: No.

Bart: St. Bernard.

Andy: What? No! The Lord said he wants a donkey.

Bart: Aw, come on, man! We've been at this for hours! He says we're supposed to go and find a donkey and untie it so it can be used to carry him triumphantly into the city, but he didn't mention that when you untie the donkeys, they keep tying themselves back up again! And we're actually supposed to find a donkey *and* its colt? Two donkeys? Where we gonna find two donkeys when we can't even find one?!

Andy nods over Bart's shoulder to Dennis and Maude. Bart looks at them and slumps, as if to say, 'Here we go again.' Andy confidently approaches the couple, while Bart trudges behind.

Andy: *(to Dennis & Maude)* Good morning! Would you mind if I untied you?

Dennis: *(nervous)* Why?

Maude: *(nervous)* What for?

Dennis: What are you after?!

Maude: Are you a debt collector?

Andy: I...well, no...

Dennis: Angry landlord?

Maude: Kids' angry principal?

Dennis: IRS agent?

Andy: Wait—what?!

Maude: Downsizing supervisor!

Dennis: Blood-sucking relative!

Maude: Dishonest auto mechanic!

Bart: Calm down, calm down! *(to Andy)* Talk about your paranoid donkeys!

Andy: We want to untie you...because the Lord has need of you today.

Maude: I knew it.

Dennis: It's judgment day.

M & D: You're lawyers!

Bart and Andy stare at them.

Bart: We're *not* lawyers.

Andy: In fact, we have been set free from the law...

Maude: *(to Dennis)* Great! It's the mob!

Dennis: They found us!

Maude: I knew they would!

Andy: Hold on, hold on. Let's start over. We don't bring bad news. We bring good news. *(untying them slowly)* The Lord sent us to find you because he's chosen to have *you* carry him triumphantly into the city. It's an incredible honor and calling.

Maude: How long would we be gone?

Dennis: What'll it cost?

Maude: Is there somewhere to eat?

Dennis: I'm allergic to shellfish.

Bart: Would you stop worrying about everything? We'd take care of all of that for you! Now are you willing to come and be used by the Lord today, or not?

Maude and Dennis eye one another, then nod their heads uncertainly.

Bart: Great! Let's go!

Andy: *(leading them by their ropes)* Follow me.

Andy and Maude pick up the "Worries" hitching post together, and begin carrying it along with them. After a few steps, Andy and Bart stop.

Andy: What are you doing?

Dennis: We're making ourselves available to the Lord.

Maude: Should we not be?

Dennis: Maybe it's a mistake!

Maude: Maybe it's the wrong decision!

Bart: No, no, it's the *right* decision. You just can't go bringing your worries with you! You gotta leave them behind.

Maude: Oh, we couldn't possibly.

Dennis: There's too many of them.

Maude: What if our credit card bills keep mounting?

Dennis: What if a tsunami hits Nebraska?

Maude: What if our child grows up and runs away with the Brazilian circus?

Andy: Brazilian...?!

Dennis: What if the zombie apocalypse is unleashed?

Bart: You two are worrying yourself to death!

Maude: *(gasp)* What if we worry ourselves to death?!

Dennis: *(gasp)* I hadn't thought of that one. That'd be terrible!

Maude: Who'd water the plants?!

Dennis: The zombies?

Andy: Look, see here. *(taking the hitching post from them)* You don't have to be tied to these worries any more. The Lord has greater purpose for you.

Dennis: What if he doesn't?

Bart: Excuse me?

Maude: What if we're only imagining you? What if we leave everything behind to go carry the Lord into the city, and he doesn't show up?

Dennis: That'd be awkward.

Maude: *(returning to post, beginning to tie up)* What if people laugh at us?

Dennis: *(also tying up)* What if they point?

Maude: What if they post it on Instagram?

Dennis: Ugh—that'd be awful.

*They continue arguing in mime while **Andy** and **Bart** move downstage.*

Bart: Augh!! Is there not a single donkey in this entire universe who's willing to be untied and used to carry the Lord into the city?!!

Andy: I'm afraid it's truly a rare breed, brother. Not only do you need one who's willing to be loosed from their busyness, their comfort, their pride and their worry, but they've got to have enough trust to allow themselves to be led.

Bart: *(exit)* I'm starting to think that such a beast doesn't exist. I'm gonna tell him he should ride a skateboard into the city and be done with it.

Lights fade.

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