



Jesus rides donkey in Melbourne Cup, comes last but claims victory

by [D'bear](#) | Nov 3, 2020 | [Culture](#)

FLEMINGTON, VIC – Controversial Jewish Carpenter, Jesus Christ, has been entered into Australia's most famous horse race, the **Melbourne Cup**, after a late scratching of the **King of Leogrance**.

Dressed in traditional robes and **riding on a donkey** which he is calling **Balaam**, Jesus has been given the longest odds ever distributed at **10000/1** (\$10001 dollars for a win, \$3250 for a place).

Curiously, Jesus indicated he would decline the use of a **using a riding crop**. This was unless, Jesus quipped, **the donkey happened to wander into a temple**.

The results of the race were unsurprising, with **Prince of Arran** coming in first, **Anthony Van Dyck** second and **Tiger Moth** third (just as **Jesus had surprisingly predicted** in the pre-race press meeting). Jesus and Balaam came in last by a full lap.

Commented [REDACTED]: This section sets the context of placing a biblical figure in a current cultural setting in a humorous way.

This simple initial tool is designed to help people connect biblical stories with modern narratives, and then engage deeper with the theological and doctrinal issues raised within.

Commented [REDACTED]: This comment links to Mark 11:1-10, the passage around Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey as the 'One coming in the name of the Lord'.

This moment will be familiar to Christians, and the contrast of events is a challenging reminder of who we worship (Jesus) and what shouldn't be worshipped (horse racing/sport).

Commented [REDACTED]: This comment links to Numbers 22:21-39, the story of Balaam's Donkey, a less familiar Old Testament lesson around God's guidance and nature.

The referencing of slightly obscure but important biblical stories opens pathways for increased biblical literacy. It once again points readers back to God's larger story of intervention in human history.

Commented [REDACTED]: This link is also to the story of Balaam, where Balaam beats his donkey due to being unenlightened as to the Lord's activity, despite the fact that Balaam's donkey could see angelic activity which he himself was blind to.

It also is a commentary on the likelihood that Jesus would not approve of the animal cruelty created by the use of riding crops.

Commented [REDACTED]: A recognition of Jesus cleansing of the Temple in John 2:20, where he condemns the distortion of worship and refers to the destruction of the Temple and His own resurrection as the new Temple.

Although layered and subtle, there is an unmistakable critique of modern-day temples that set up that actually create obstacles to true worship.

Commented [REDACTED]: A nod to the nature of Jesus as God incarnate who is omniscient (all-knowing), and the foolishness of people who might underestimate his capacity in such an obscure prophetic insight.

In a shocking twist however, at the celebrations Jesus took to the podium and declared that he was in fact, **victorious**.

*“Didn’t you believe me when I told you that **the last shall be first and the first shall be last?**”*

*“I must say I also found it a little odd that there was so much cheering for a horse crossing a line, but **none when the Son of Man came riding in offering salvation.**”*

*“You **Australian’s are a little mixed up aren’t you?**”*

It is further reported that one of the horses, **Ashrun**, had been found to have broken his leg during the race and was put down. **Jesus, however, went over and rebuked the trainers and subsequently raised the animal from the dead, healing his leg in the process.**

Commented [REDACTED]: This reference juxtaposes interpretations of ‘victory’. For Christian’s Jesus has already achieved victory over all sin and death, and encourage his followers to live lives that reflect such a victory. It also reflects the final victory referred to in Revelation 21 as part of the new heavens and new earth.

The alternative victory of an ultimately insignificant horse race pales in comparison to such a victory, even if the crowds do not understand.

Commented [REDACTED]: This is taken directly from the words of Jesus in Matthew 20:16 from the Parable of the Vineyard workers.

The parable is about salvation and the grace of God, a stark reminder of what really matters in life and purpose.

Commented [REDACTED]: A continuation on the previous vein of salvation, but once again highlighting the misplaced priorities of people within Jesus original mission, as well and people’s celebration today.

Commented [REDACTED]: A direct challenge to Australia’s cultural worldview suggesting introspection and cultural (and maybe even legal) change.

Commented [REDACTED]: A light finish with the reminder of Jesus power and authority of sickness and death (in humans and animals), as well as the harmful consequences of then sport of horseracing.