

## **Fear, Balaam and Blessings - Oct. 28, 2020**

Balak - king of Moab, is afraid. Afraid of the future... resources gone...

But - no reason for fear. Israel was just passing thru to Canaan

❖ Hint: Enemy works off fear.

Fear leads to bad decisions... curse then fight.

Balaam - a sorcerer. Not a prophet nor Jewish (still heard Gods voice)

• God speaks to all people; a voice inside that all can hear.

❖ God can work thru all. (Caesar Augustus decree)

Balak sends “divination” fee to curse the Israelites. (**Num. 22:1-8**)

God’s answer to Balaam - **v. 12** - “Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, b/c they are Blessed.”

Moabite messengers return to try again - Balaam’s true heart is revealed.

He wants \$, fame, respect... Serves himself, not God.

• Got God’s answer, but continues ... change His mind?

■ Some answers: yes, no, not now. God gave Clear answer.

**2d answer** – God says ok, but “do only what I tell you.”

● Don’t confuse God’s tolerance of our desires as God’s blessing.  
Allows him to go, just as God allows us to pursue what we want.

■ Balaam’s donkey sees Angel of God standing in the path w/ sword.

(1) Angel in road - turned off in field; Balaam beat her.

(2) Angel in narrow vineyard path w/ walls - pressed on wall.

(3) Angel in very narrow place “no room to turn” - lay down.

Drastic measure - **talking donkey**. It asks Balaam: "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" (**Num 22:28**)

• Notice - the way got harder, Balaam presses on.

**God will make it hard on us, too.**

BUT - When we go against God’s will, we will have **warnings**.

Note: Balaam so focused on what he wanted, he missed the miracle.

• When something drastic or extraordinary happens, pay attention!

After Balaam & donkey talk, his eyes are opened - sees Angel.

- Angel asks Balaam same Q as donkey; God was speaking thru donkey  
- "I have come here to oppose you b/c your path is reckless."

Donkey turned or I would've killed you, but saved Donkey.

- Balaam: "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the Rd to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back."

◆ Really?? ----"If you are displeased?" He is **spiritually blind**.

Angel w/drawn sword ... Donkey talks ... "Did I make you angry?"

### Stop for some Spiritual Truths:

- Reckless actions - not looking ahead to consequences.  
**God's mercy saved his life.** Missed it - focused on his wants.  
He knew God's answer, but wanted an out.
  - His focus was on power, prestige, \$ **Was blind** to God's will;
    - experienced miracles, still questioning & going forward.
  - Balaam is in rebellion against God, doing his own thing;  
He beat Donkey in anger b/c she made a "fool" of him.
    - ◆ Rebellion leads to anger ... leads to foolish acts.
- When we're spiritually blind - don't think clearly & act badly

End of story - Balaam goes on. Balak orders him to curse the Israelites.

4x - 4 blessings. How can I curse what God has not cursed?

Balaam's 4 messages repeat God's covenant blessing on His people:

- 1 - people who are separate; as numerous as the dust of the earth;
- 2 - the Lord is w/ Israel; they are strong.
- 3 - sees the blessings ahead for Israel in the promised land;
- 4 - announces that from Israel will come the Messiah.

That is a prophecy long before Micah 5:2

- Balaam does speak the words God put in his mouth.  
But no relationship w/ God. Wanted benefits, no responsibilities.  
We can't fully be all God wants us to be if we don't obey Him.

Final thoughts:

1 - **Num. 23:19** - God is not a human being that will change His mind  
Save yourself misery and stop fighting God's will.

2 - Our mistakes don't stop us from being useful to God  
He makes good come from bad. Nothing is impossible.  
Even a Donkey & sorcerer do His will and speak His truth.

3 - When someone opposes you, God's anointed child, doesn't matter  
how hard they try - they cannot curse what God has blessed.

They cannot change your destiny.

God turns Curses into Blessings.

God turns Messes into Messages.

God turns Trials into Triumph.

God turns Tests into Testimonies.

God turns Victims into Victors.

— **Num 6:24-26** - Blessing God had Moses speak over His children:

“The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”