



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 25

Trust In God's Direction

Numbers 22:30-33 (ESV)

And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No." Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live."

Really quickly, the context of this passage relates how one, Balak, king of Moab sought out Balaam to curse God's blessed people. Balak sends people to Balaam the first time but Balaam's response is, "*Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you (v:13).*" This response came after the Lord asked Balaam who these people were that were with him (v:9). Balaam relates to God who they are, and God directs him not to go with them.

These people are persistent with Balaam and send for him again. Only this time Balak made the reward more desirable. And this time, Balaam tells the people that he will inquire of the Lord because he can only say as the Lord directs him. This time the Lord tells Balaam, "*If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you (v:20).*"

So, the next morning, Balaam rises up and saddles his donkey and went with the people of Moab. Notice one thing here, first exactly what God told Balaam (i.e. "*If the men have come to call you.*") One thing about this is that the men did not call for Balaam, instead he rose up, saddled his donkey and went with them anyway. Already there was disobedience to a very specific word from the Lord.

So, Balaam starts his journey. But the Bible says this about how God saw this in

v:22, *“But God’s anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary.”* I am reminded of a New Testament example, or rather principle here in James 4:4b (ESV),

“Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Balaam aligned himself with the world very clearly. On his way with them, the donkey he was riding on saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. What we are about to see is a picture of God’s view on disobedience and how He detests it, but also on the other hand just how merciful He is to bring about correction. I say this because three times the donkey tried to avert this impending judgment of God on Balaam and three times the donkey was struck by Balaam. The third time, the donkey spoke in an intelligible tongue and Balaam heard, *“Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?”* (v:30) This is likened to us knocking down doors that are locked or trying to make our own way apart from God’s true direction and leading.

Here we have it, three times God tried to warn Balaam of impending judgment, but he would not listen. Yet still, in God’s mercy and love he decides to speak through this donkey. Do not marvel that God can speak through a donkey. This is really not the miracle here. The truth is that God had been using the donkey in other ways to get his attention but to no avail. I wonder then, do we have any God-given donkey’s in our life trying to stop us from moving into something that God does not want for us? Are we forcefully moving into something that was not designed for us by God? Don’t let it come to the point where God needs to speak through a donkey. Again, this is not the kind of miracle we should be looking for.

Along with this, God can and often does speak to His people today through proverbial donkey’s. It is evident in our lack of confidence in Him and of our trust in His word. Often, in today’s Christian culture we see a great many believers quenching the Holy Spirit. We might ask, how? or why?

Well, today, there are a great many people who profess to know God but do not follow the leading of His Spirit. Instead, they follow the leading of their own ideas and doctrines, much like Balaam. Because of this, people are often misled into areas they ought not to be or are just deceived enough to miss the mark on a continual basis. And then, when God tries to reconcile them back to no avail, He must take drastic measures. Praise God that He never gives up on us! He is rich in mercy, let us never forget this. However, I would rather learn to just be in His will on a more perpetual basis and experience His grace and love than needing a donkey to speak to me to tell me how it is.

This message is not intended as a rebuke but as a comfort for those who love Jesus Christ and because of this love desire to serve Him more fully. Lord, I diligently ask that You purify us as Your people called to love and good works by Your Spirit working within us that which is pleasing in Your sight alone. If there is anything in us that is hindering us from hearing You speak clearly to us, then remove it quickly so that we don't have to go through all the trouble and struggle of a path that waits for a donkey to speak to us. Father, it is so easy to be led away into things or ideas that are not entirely of You yet are still done in Your name. Help us see the error of our ways and ideas and lead us into Your eternal Kingdom unashamed. We love You Father and need Your guidance. Help us to be the glorious and powerful church You called us to be, in Jesus name. Amen.

Oh no, You never let go. Through the calm and through the storm Oh no, You never let go. In every high and every low Oh no, You never let go. Lord, You never let go of me (Matt Redman).

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
Lights and Perfection, Inc



©2019 Lights and Perfection, Inc. | 2518 Burnsed Blvd. Ste 423 The Villages, FL 32163

Like

Tweet

Web Version

Preferences

Forward

Unsubscribe

Powered by
GoDaddy Email Marketing®