

BALAAAM

— AND —

A MESSED UP FAITH

WHEN COMPROMISE LEADS
GOD'S PEOPLE ASTRAY



A SERMON SERIES

— with —

Dr. Hampton Drum

A Messed-Up Faith and An Opportunity to Repent

Numbers 22:22-31

Introduction:

“Our yea should be yea and our nay, nay. When I see a dog coming toward me showing his teeth and wagging his tail, I never know which to believe. Let us make up our minds. We are never really neither/nor both. If we are not with our Lord, we are against Him.”

- Vance Havner -

I. Balaam was blinded by his own ambition.

A. Balaam was blinded by the opportunity of great gain.

And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. (V. 21) And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. Numbers 22:20-21

“Possession is nine-tenths of the law” is an expression meaning that ownership is easier to maintain if one has possession of something. (Have you ever heard someone use this expression as an excuse to take something that wasn’t theirs?)

B. Balaam was blinded to how offensive he was to God.

And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his donkey, and his two servants were with him. Numbers 22:22

*“Have you ever been blinded by an ambition that shut all good reason from your mind?
So focused on the payday, you ignored all reasonable warning?”*

“Balaam didn’t wait for the men to come to him; he saddled his donkey and went to the place where the delegation was camped, determined to do his own will. This determination, along with the covetousness in Balaam’s heart, made the Lord angry.”

- Warren Wiersbe -

II. Balaam was bewildered by his own animal.

A. Balaam was bewildered by the vow of common loyalty.

And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the donkey turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the donkey, to turn her into the way. (V. 24) But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. (V. 25) And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. (V. 26) And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. (V. 27) And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. (V. 28) And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she

said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? (V. 29) And Balaam said unto the donkey, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. (V. 30) And the donkey said unto Balaam, Am not I thine donkey, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.
Numbers 22:23-30

“The irony of this story is the donkey was showing Balaam a faithfulness and a protection that he himself was denying the nation of Israel.”

B. Balaam was bewildered by the voice of common learning.

And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine donkey these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: (V. 33) And the donkey saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. Numbers 22:32-33

The Lord is precious to give us an opportunity to reconsider our behavior: *Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. Hosea 2:3*

III. Balaam was burdened by the reality of his own aspiration.

“Many times, sin in the saint is an unexpected opportunity, meeting an undetected weakness. When those two come together, we fall into sin.”
- Adrian Rogers -

A. Balaam was awakened to the reality of his sin.

And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: Numbers 22:34

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. Matthew 15:8

“We may regret what our sins do to our testimony and the evil effect on others, but we are little concerned because the fellowship with God is broken. This makes for shallow and inadequate confession because we have not touched the heart of the trouble.”
- Vance Havner -

B. Balaam was awakened to the need to repent of his sin.

... now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. Numbers 22:34

And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. Numbers 22:35

Balaam Followed Balak: *And Balak said unto him, Come, I pray thee, with me unto another place, . . . and curse me them from thence. Numbers 23:13*

And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; Numbers 23:27