

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 the Danger of Mixed Motives

Numbers 22:1-6

Introduction:

“Some characters are clear as crystal, easy to see and easy to understand. On the other hand, there are characters in the Bible who seem to walk in the shadows. Darkness hides their true natures.

They are distorted, twisted individuals. Balaam falls into this category.”

- Jerry Vines -

I. There were the mixed motives of Balak.

A. Balak was intimidated by the congregation of Israel.

And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. Numbers 22:3

Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. Numbers 22:4

There was no need for Balak to be frightened; *And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. Deuteronomy 2:9*

B. Balak initiated a plan to curse the nation of Israel.

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: Numbers 22:6

II. There were the mixed motives of Balaam.

A. In Balaam's mixed motives he knew the standards of God.

And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. Numbers 22:18

“Now, Balaam really wanted the reward; he really wanted the payoff. But, he knew the ways of God, and he knew that he could only bless those whom God blessed and he could only curse those whom God had cursed.”

- Adrian Rogers -

B. In Balaam's mixed motives he desired the settlement of gold.

... the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; Numbers 22:7

For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: Numbers 22:17

And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; Numbers 22:12

Balaam felt the commands of God were negotiable: *Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night,*

III. There were the mighty motives of God.

A. In God's motives, the ones He blesses no one can curse.

... thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. Numbers 22:12

"When the blessing of the Lord are solidly in place, no power can reverse them."

- David Jeremiah -

B. In God's motives, He tries the issues of the conscious.

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. Numbers 22:20

(The Lord was saying to Balaam: Make sure you are loyal to my intent, and to my purpose to bless the people of Israel.)

"Balaam reminds me of an immature Christian. All he heard from the Lord was yes. He was looking for a way to get his way; he was not looking to be faithful to God's will."

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. Numbers 22:21

And God's anger was kindled because he went: Numbers 22:22

"Have you ever done your children this way? You explain the intentions of your heart, and then you trust them to do the right thing. Out of respect to you and your wishes you expect them to make the right choice."