

## Tale of the Three Kings

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### Contrite and delight

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51:10-12

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 1 Corinthians 15:56

And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. <sup>9</sup> And God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?" <sup>10</sup> And Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, <sup>11</sup> 'Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.'" <sup>12</sup> God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them. You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed." <sup>13</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go to your own land, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you." <sup>14</sup> So the Moabite officials returned to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us." <sup>15</sup> Then Balak sent other officials, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. Numbers 22:8-15 ESV

But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God. <sup>19</sup> Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the Lord will tell me." <sup>20</sup> That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you." <sup>21</sup> Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite of officials. Numbers 22:18-21

When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the donkey again. <sup>26</sup> Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. <sup>27</sup> When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff. <sup>28</sup> Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" <sup>29</sup> Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now." <sup>30</sup> The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said. Numbers 22:25-30

**I have sinned.** (1 Samuel 15:24, 30; 1 Samuel 12:13)

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

### Let's Connect

- What's your favorite genre of music?

### Let's Talk About It

The Psalms could be called the Bible's songbook. Each psalm was initially written as a song to reflect on the greatness of who God is and how He cares for His people. In Psalm 51, we are given insight into the heart of David, who wrote many of the psalms. When David was confronted about his sin, he responded with humility and brokenness. David gives us an example of a heart that is tender and teachable. When faced with our sin and brokenness, we should learn from David and respond with godly repentance.

Psalm 51:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Numbers 22:8-30; 1 Samuel 15:24, 30; 1 Samuel 12:13; 2 Corinthians 7:10

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Psalm 51:10-12. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your honesty in quickly admitting when you have wronged someone? Why have you rated yourself this way?
- Read Numbers 22:25-30 and discuss the interaction Balaam has with his donkey. When under immense pressure, do you find yourself cutting corners? Why or why not?
- Consider the difference between David and Saul and their different responses after being confronted about their sin. Do you care more about what God thinks of you than what people think of you? Can you expand on why you answered this way?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between godly and worldly sorrow? Why does one produce life and the other produce death?

### Take a Step

- What practical step can you take this week to put this message into practice?

### Here's My Prayer

Father, may David's prayer be my prayer, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.