

Balaam
Numbers 22:1-5
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how important it is that we follow God's commands...to the letter.

Intro: 1. What happened to us as children when we didn't obey our parents?
2. What if we pushed and pushed until we got our way, were our parents pleased?
3. God is not pleased when we do not do as He desires.
4. Shouldn't we know that God is not pleased with us when we do not do as He commands, or that we should know better than to do certain things.

I. The King fears Israel

A. v.1-4

1. Moab feared Israel because of their great numbers and because of who they have conquered before.
2. He sends for Balaam seeking his help.

B. v.5-6

1. The king wants to overcome these people. However they are God's people (v.12)
2. The king knows that whoever he blesses is blessed, and whoever he curses is cursed because God is with them.

C. v. 7-8

1. Balaam actually shows wisdom here. He doesn't make a decision right away.
2. He first wants to speak with God, BEFORE, making a choice.

II. The King pursues Balaam and entices him (v.9-21)

A. v.9-13

1. God's reply is to not go with these men.
2. The people who they want to curse are blessed. Obviously they were God's people.

B. v.14-19

1. The men return and want to give money to Balaam if he would go with them.
2. Balaam says it doesn't matter what they give him, he can not go beyond what God gives him to speak.

C. v.20-21

1. God gives Balaam permission to go with these men.
2. However, He wasn't to go beyond what God tells him to say.

III. Balaam goes with them and God shows His anger towards him.(v.22-35)

A. God is angry towards (v.22)

1. God allow Balaam to go, however He was still displeased with him.
2. Why? Because the king was trying to persuade Balaam into cursing God's people. Balaam was now in fellowship with those who he had no business being in fellowship with.
3. The Angel of the Lord now was standing in the way of Balaam as his adversary.

B. Balaam and the donkey (v.23-31)

1. v.23- The donkey tries to stay out of the way of the Angel of the Lord, Balaam not knowing this strikes his donkey. His donkey unknown to Balaam, is trying to protect them both.
 2. v.24-25, again the Angel of the Lord stands in their way. The donkey trying to save them crushes Balaam's foot. This earns him another strike from Balaam.
 3. v.26-27, the Angel of the Lord is in their path again and the donkey lies down. Balaam again strikes the donkey and now the donkey speaks to him.
 - 4.v.28-30, The donkey is innocent because she was trying to protect them both. The donkey asks Balaam if she has every acted like that before. He replies no and then God opens His eyes.
 5. v.31, Balaam now understands and fears for his life.
- C. v.32-38
1. v.32-33, The Angel of the Lord tells Balaam that if it wasn't for his donkey, he'd be dead by now.
 2. v.34-35, Balaam realizes his sin, he should had never went. However now he is to go but is told not to speak beyond what he is given to speak.
 3. Balaam could rest assured that if did go beyond, no donkey would save him from the Angel of the Lord the next time.

- Conc:
1. We ought to listen more closely to what God has told us.
 2. If we fail to do so He no doubt will not be pleased.
 3. Invitation