

Lessons from a Donkey
Numbers 22:28-31
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of putting God's commands above the wants of others.

- Intro:
1. It is not uncommon for people of all ages to pressure others to do things which go against God's commands.
 2. Balaam is an example of what happens when people listen to others and not God.

I. Balak's messengers

A. 1st Visit

1. Balak's fear of Israel (**v.5-6**)
2. God's response to Balak's request (**v.9-12**)
3. Balaam's reply & Balak's reply (**v.13-15**)
 - a. This was an attempt to pressure Balaam with those who are honorable & respected by the people. (**v.15**)

B. 2nd Visit

1. A promise to honor and no doubt look good among worldly men was put before Balaam. (**v.16-17**)
2. A righteous answer (**v.18**)

C. God's test of Balaam

1. Balaam has the men stay (**v.19**)
2. He is tested by God (**v.20**)
 - a. Remember what God has said previously (**v.12**)
3. Balaam went with them (**v.21**)

II. A Donkey, an Angel & Balak

A. Balaam & the Donkey

1. Something causes the Donkey to be afraid (**v.22-27**)
2. The donkey makes it clear he was only trying to protect himself & Balaam (**v.28-30**)

B. Balaam & the Angel

1. Balaam is rebuke for harming his animal (**v.31-32**)
2. He is then told that he would had killed him already if not for his donkey (**v.33**)
3. Balaam confesses his sin for coming with the men, which God had told him not to do (**v.34**)

C. Balaam & Balak

1. Balaam is now told to go but to only speak the words that God has given him (**v.35**)
2. Balak tries to show some authority asking where Balaam has been and promising to honor him (**v.36-37**)
3. Balaam then responds and says he can only say what God permits him to say (**v.38-40**)
4. Balaam on 5 different occasions does not curse the people
 - a. (*Num 23:1-12, 13-24, 25-24:9, 10-19, 20-25*)

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. The desires of others do not supersede God's commands
 - 1. Balaam is pressured (**v.15-17**)
 - 2. Balaam says he will not say more than God has told him but he no longer says he will not go with them (**v.18**)
- B. Balaam was reminded of the seriousness of God's commands
 - 1. He could have died for his error (**v.33**)
 - 2. It would not be the first time people have died for breaking God's laws.

Application & Conclusion:

- 1. God's commands do not have to agree with the ideas of others or the world (**Isa 55:9**)
- 2. We would do well to not allow others to pressure us to do things which would cause us to break God's laws.
- 3. We must remember that peer pressure happens at all ages.
- 4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9