

# The Balaam's Among Us

## Introduction

### Scripture Reading: Numbers 22:1-21

1. The book of Numbers records part of the history of the Israelites as they journeyed from Egypt to Canaan.
  - A. As they neared the land of Canaan, they, with God's assistance, destroyed the nations that were in their way.
  - B. After they had destroyed the Amorites, the neighboring Moabites became very frightened. Let's read the first part of the story of Balaam in Numbers 22:1-21.  
**Numbers 22:1-21**
2. Balak, king of Moab, sent for Balaam and requested that he curse the Israelites so that they may be defeated.
  - A. God came to Balaam and told him not to go with them and not to curse the Israelites because they were blessed.
    - 1) As we all read this passage, God's word came through crystal clear didn't it? It was easy to understand that Balaam was not to go with Balak's leaders. **He understood it - He did not go.**

**B. Balak was not satisfied when his men reported to him what Balaam's reply was. He sent them again to Balaam offering riches to curse the children of Israel.**

- 1) Balaam now inquired of God again. Why? Didn't God already give His answer?**
- 2) Balaam wanted the riches and was hoping that God would change his mind and allow him to go curse Israel.**
- 3) He knew what God had said and that should have been the final answer for him.**
  - a. God told him "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you-- that you shall do. So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab."**

### **There Are Many Followers of God like Balaam**

- 1. These are ones that know what God says, but they think that God will not mind if they do something differently.**

**A. BAPTISM:**

- 1) Many people are aware that immersion in water is baptism and they have no problem accepting one into their fellowship who has been immersed - but also see no harm in sprinkling or pouring as alternate forms of baptism.**
  - a. They KNOW immersion is right, but think that sprinkling or pouring is just as good.**

- 2) To “walk in the steps of our savior” then we must do EXACTLY what God teaches us to do and leave off everything else.**

Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

- a. Those who substitute sprinkling or pouring for baptism may be sincere and have nothing but good intentions, but they are not pleasing to God.  
(EXAMPLE Child getting bread at the market)**

2 John 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

- 3) Scriptures teach that baptism is for the remission of sins.**

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 22:16 “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

1 Pet 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**B. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:**

- 1) Some preachers understood clearly at one time what God had said regarding divorce and remarriage, but they have succumbed to the pressure of the world to question God's law.
- 2) They have gone back to God, as Balaam did, for a different answer and sure enough they have found one.
  - a. People change, and people's attitude change but God's Word does not change.

1 Peter 1:24-25 because "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

- 3) We may try to reason, "I know what you said God, but surely you weren't talking to alien sinners in Matthew 19:9 and surely you meant to put into 1 Corinthians 7:15 that deserted Christians are free to remarry"
  - a. But God's Word still stands!
- 4) Faithful preachers and teachers will not compromise the gospel in order to accommodate sinners unwilling to repent.

**C. IMMODEST CLOTHING:**

- 1) **"I know what you said about immodesty and shamefacedness God, but people are going to lust anyway."**
- 2) **This is the reasoning of some Christians who still insist on engaging in mixed swimming and the wearing of inappropriate shorts in the summertime like those in the world.**
- 3) **We KNOW that God specifically instructs us to dress modestly and in a discreet manner, but many still try to rationalize their way around this plain teaching.**

1 Timothy 2:9-10 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, **which is proper for women professing godliness**, with good works.

- a. **While others may lust regardless of what we wear, Christ strictly warns us to NOT be the cause of such lusting.**

Matthew 18:7-8 "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but **woe to that man by whom the offense comes!**"

- 4) **Immodest clothing is an outward reflection of the inward heart. One will not dress immodestly that is keeping God's first commandment.**

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

## Conclusion

1. It is unfortunate that people read and can understand what these passages say, BUT, they like Balaam, keep going back to God for a different answer.
  - A. Because of worldly pressures, family resistance, or other reasons, they just do not want to obey God's plain instruction.  
**Galatians 1:6-10**
  - B. Preachers of righteousness must proclaim God's Word regardless of the consequences.  
**Ezekiel 3:17-21**  
**2 Corinthians 4:7-14**
2. Conviction is Needed.
  - A. Micaiah was a prophet of God that was convicted to say only the truth.
    - 1) He was reluctantly summoned by Ahab to prophesy concerning an upcoming battle (1 Kings 22:8-9).
    - 2) There was great pressure on him to prophesy pleasing words to Ahab but his reply to the soldier was "As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak."
    - 3) Micaiah was jailed because he spoke the truth. He was a man of conviction - knowing that it was God that he needed to please not man.  
**Acts 5:29**
  - B. We need faithful preachers, teachers, and Christians that are true to God's Word and just as strict as God intends for it to be.

## Place

## Date

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Richie Thetford, November 1995 – Reworked November 2024