

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 56  
Numbers 22

INTRODUCTION: Here is the story of a wonderful preacher who got in the wrong crowd and was ruined. The emphasis of this lesson is to stress the importance of running with the right crowd and the danger of being in the wrong crowd. Let us notice the story of Balaam.

I. BALAAM'S GOOD ATTRIBUTES.

1. He believed the Word of God. If Balaam were preaching today, it would be hard to find anything wrong with his message. He was a fundamentalist and proud of it. He preached four sermons in the Bible.

The first sermon dealt with his loyalty to the Word of God. Numbers 22:18, "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." Notice what a tremendous statement this is and how he stood for the Word of God.

His second sermon's text is found in Numbers 23:12, "And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?" Also look at Numbers 23:5, "And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, Return unto Balak, and thus thou shalt speak." See also verse 16, "And the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, Go again unto Balak, and say thus." You can see that Balaam was a faithful proclaimer of the Word of God. He believed it from cover to cover. Look at Numbers 23:19, 20: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it." What a man! What a preacher!

His third sermon is in Numbers 23:26, "But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?" Notice his faithfulness to the entire Word of God. Balak became angry against Balaam. He became so angry that he smote his hands together; yet Balaam stood true. Balaam said that even if Balak would give him his house full of silver and gold, he could not go beyond the commandment of the Lord to do either good or bad of his own mind, but what the Lord saith, that would he speak. What a man! What a preacher!

His fourth sermon is one of the greatest sermons on the coming Messiah found in the entire Bible. Numbers 24:15-19, "And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city."

If Balaam lived in our generation, he would be a rock-ribbed fundamentalist, standing for what is true, and nobody could sway his preaching!

2. He preached the blood of sacrifice. Not only was Balaam loyal to the Bible, but he preached the blood. Such Scriptures as Numbers 23:1-4, 6, 14, 15, 17, 29 and 30 show us his belief in the blood of Christ. In verse 30 the Bible says, "And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar." He preached the blood.
3. God's Spirit was upon him. Numbers 24:2, "And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him." He was a Bible preacher, a preacher of the blood and a Spirit-filled preacher.
4. He received a vision from God. In other words, he walked with God. Numbers 23:3, 4, "And Balaam said unto Balak, Stand by thy burnt-offering, and I will go: peradventure the LORD will

come to meet me: and whatsoever he sheweth me I will tell thee. And he went to an high place. And God met Balaam: and he said unto him, I have prepared seven altars, and I have offered upon every altar a bullock and a ram.” Numbers 24:15, 16, “And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open.”

- II. BALAAM’S MISTAKES. Balaam simply went with the wrong crowd. He decided to go into Moab. The Moabites were descendants of Lot’s son, Moab, who was born as a result of Lot’s incest with his daughter while in the little city of Zoar. Moab has been an enemy of God’s people through the years. Balaam had no business forming a union of any kind with the Moabites. The true prophets of God always denounced Moab in their preaching and in their practice. Never did they yoke up with Moab.
1. Isaiah warned against yoking up with Moab. Isaiah 25:10, “For in this mountain shall the hand of the LORD rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill.”
  2. Jeremiah warned against yoking up with Moab. Jeremiah 48:1, 2, “Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed. There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.”
  3. Ezekiel warned against this yoke. Ezekiel 25:8-11, “Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Moab and Seir do say, Behold, the house of Judah is like unto all the heathen; Therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Beth-jeshimoth, Baal-meon, and Kiriathaim, Unto the men of the east with the Ammonites, and will give them in possession, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations. And I will execute judgments upon Moab; and they shall know that I am the LORD.”
  4. Amos warned against it. Amos 2:1-3, “Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime: But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kiriath: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet: And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.”
  5. The Bible tells us many times it is wrong for us to run with the wrong crowd. This does not mean that we should not be nice to them. We should be nice and courteous. We should witness to them, but we should not make them our boyfriends or girlfriends. We should not marry them. Following are some Scriptures that plainly teach this truth: II Chronicles 19:2, “And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.”

II Corinthians 6:14-18, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

Psalms 1:1, “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

II John 7-11, “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath

both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

III. BALAAM'S PUNISHMENT. Sin always takes its toll. Notice the sad things that happened because of Balaam's sin.

1. It hurt the work of God. Numbers 25:1, 2.
2. It hurt the people of God. God's people had to suffer because of Balaam's sin. Numbers 25:4, 5.
3. It hurt Balaam. Numbers 31:8.

CONCLUSION: Teacher, warn the pupils over and over and over again of the danger and the sin of running with the wrong crowd!