

## **Balaam's Prayer – "Not Your Will, But Mine"**

### **Scripture Reading: Numbers 22-24**

Balak, the king of Moab hires a prophet by the name Balaam to speak and prophecy curses on the people of Israel. Balaam said that he would inquire of the lord regarding this and then confirm. He clearly knew that God will not desire nor allow the people of Israel to be cursed. If someone asks you to steal something, will you tell them, "I will inquire of the Lord and respond."? We never do that. Balaam should have refused the offer, but he rather wanted to inquire of the Lord. God answered his prayer and said a "NO" for his request.

Balaam said to Balak the king that he cannot do that. The king then tries to deceive Balaam by sending higher officials and promising him of great honors. Balaam was lured by worldly honors and the riches that were placed before his eyes. The next day Balaam left along with his donkey, two servants and the top leaders of Moab.

One their way, the donkey of Balaam bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat her back onto the road. Now they were travelling in a road which had walls on the either sides. The Donkey squirmed past by pressing against the wall, crushing Balaam's foot in the process. So he began to beat her again. Now they were travelling in a very narrow road and the donkey lay down in the road and never stood up. Balaam was raged and took out his staff to hit the donkey. The donkey was behaving in this manner because it had seen an angel of the Lord with a drawn sword in his hand in the path they travelled. God enabled the donkey to speak. The donkey said, "What have I done that deserves your beating me these three times?" Balaam responded, "I wish I had a sword with me, for I would kill you". The donkey asked, "Have I ever done anything like this before in my entire life?". "No," he admitted.

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the Lord with a drawn sword. He fell flat on the ground before him. The Angel told him, "Go with the men, but say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam went on with them.

The next morning Balak took Balaam to the top of Mount Bamoth-baal, from which he could see the people of Israel spread out before him. He asked Balaam to curse the people of Israel and promised him to give great treasures as reward. But Balaam didn't forget the lesson taught by the donkey. He knew that God was with him and was observing all that he does. Therefore, though he had the desire for the riches they offered, he refused to curse those whom the Lord had blessed. Balaam couldn't pronounce even a single curse over God's people.

None can curse the children of God. When God blesses a person, no one can change it over his life. Nothing can harm you by crossing over the protecting hand of God.

### **Questions:**

- 1) Why did Balaam wanted to curse the people of Israel?
- 2) Why was Balaam unable to curse the people of Israel?
- 3) Who has blessed you?