

**I. Three Strikes - Num. 22:22-27**

1. The angel of the Lord appears to block Balaam from doing the wrong thing (**verse 22**)
  - A. A donkey which can see things that people cannot
  - B. A donkey which can talk (temporarily)
2. Three turns (**verses 23-25**) - three beatings
  - A. First one, - the donkey turned into a field - the donkey is beat
  - B. The narrow path has walls on either side - so Balaam's foot is crushed - beat the donkey again
  - C. The donkey cannot turn at all - beat again
3. God is angry that Balaam is going to Moab  
-God later tells Balaam to go to Moab - so what's the idea?
4. Possible answers:
  - A. Moab did something on the way that displeased God
  - B. The journey was a lesson for the prophet
  - C. Balaam thought he was a great "seer" (Rea - the Old Testament word for prophet sometimes)
    - the incident happens so that the prophet realizes that God can give a donkey "sight" if He desires
    - revelation comes only by the authority of God

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Is this a good way to reveal the will of God? - what about Saul being struck down blind on the way to Damascus?
2. Discuss the proclivity of prophets to "run without being sent" - to invent their own messages
  - Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh
3. God can make even a donkey talk - if He wants - so, Balaam, you're not so great

**II. Two Questions - Numbers 22:28-30**

1. The Lord opened the donkey's mouth

Rea -supernaturally we presume

2. You made me a fool - Balaam made this a personal insult
3. The donkey responds with - haven't I always been your faithful donkey?
  - I don't usually do this to you

Rea 4. Discuss so many who stubbornly refuse to believe that they have been wrong about Jesus, or the Bible way

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Rebuked by a donkey?
2. Was Balaam sincerely wrong? - or just belligerent?
3. Stubborn, or blind?
4. Can you be "taught?" - are you humble enough to be led?

**III. One View - Numbers 22:31-35**

1. God enabled Balaam to see the angel
  - A. Why have you beaten your donkey three times?

B. Your acts are “evil”

2. God stopped Balaam - a donkey can see things you cannot see

-also a donkey can speak for me just as well as you can

3. Elijah spoke as if he thought he were indispensable to God (1 Kings 19)

-it is easy to lose all perspective

Rea -this is more than perspective, this is humility - sometimes us preachers get to the place that we “like” our role too much

4. Balaam was at times a good prophet - but was motivated also by the greed of the job - Rev. 2:14

Rea -Paul was given a thorn, lest he fall prey to the sin of “pride” - this job could get to be an ego boost

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Who speaks for God, and how will we know them?

2. False prophets can start out good and turn false???

3. God can reveal things to you - if He can reveal things to a donkey

4. Do you ever see yourself as God’s spokesman?

5. Animals are smarter than people?

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