



The church of Christ

Grandview Pines

November 13, 2011

A Donkey Demonstrates Obedience

By Charles Box

Balaam stands in disgrace as the model of apostasy. His desire for lust, power and wealth lured him to act in opposition to the will of the Almighty God. God admonished Balaam through an obedient, talking donkey. Peter wrote of the story of Balaam in 2 Peter 2:15-16. He wrote, "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet." The story of Balaam is a very strange story, but it is true. It occupies three chapters (Numbers 22-24) and a number of other Bible mentions. Balak, king of Moab called upon the services of Balaam to put a curse upon the Israelites so as to stop their progress.

Let us observe some of the facts of this bizarre account:

Getting to know Balaam: The children of Israel pitched their tents in the plains of Moab near Jericho. Balak was King of Moab. His people heard how many Israelites there were and what they had done to the Amorites. They were afraid. So King Balak sent a message to Balaam son of Beor to come and place a curse on Israelites? Balak told Balaam that "anyone you bless will be successful, but anyone you curse will fail." The leaders of Moab and Midian went to Balaam with the message and they took money to pay him for his work. God's message to Balaam was "Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed."

At first Balaam refused to go with these people. The second time they came, Balaam said he could not go even for a house full of silver and gold. It sounds like he was naming his price. God told him to go but to do only what He said to do. So Balaam got up the next morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. God was angry that Balaam had gone, so one of the Lord's angels stood in the road to block his way. The donkey saw the anger standing there with the sword, but Balaam did not see it. So the donkey went off the road into an open field. Balaam beat the donkey to get it back on the road. Next the angel stood in a path of the vineyards between two walls. When the donkey saw the angel, it walked so close to one of the walls that it crushed Balaam's foot against the wall and he smote her again. The angel then moved once more and stood in a spot so narrow that there was no room for the donkey to go around. So she just lay down. Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

In a most amazing moment God caused Balaam's donkey to talk and it did not seem to shake the disobedient prophet at all. The donkey asked Balaam, "What have I done to you that made you beat me three times?" Balaam responded "Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee." The donkey told Balaam that he was her owner and that he had ridden upon her many times. The donkey asked Balaam if she had ever done anything like that and Balaam said, "No." Then the Lord allowed Balaam to see the angel standing in the road, holding a sword, and Balaam bowed down, realizing that the donkey had saved his life. Balaam went to Balak and said, "I will say only what God tells me to say."

Through this Biblical account we observe that Balaam did some things right. At first Balaam listened to God. Balaam said to Balak's officials, "Go on back home. The Lord says I cannot go with you." He refused to do or say anything that God did not approve. On Balak's second attempt Balaam said, "Even if Balak offered me a palace full of silver or gold, I wouldn't do anything to disobey the LORD my God." He said, "Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Ram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied...Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" (Numbers 23:7-10) It is always right to be righteous and to only do and say what God desires.

Through this Biblical account we observe that Balaam did some things wrong. In fact he was so wrong that "God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him..."(Numbers 22:22) Moses said the counsel of Balaam caused Israel to "commit trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord." (Numbers 31:14-16) The work of Balaam caused the children of Israel to sin and to suffer a terrible plague. Jesus recalled how Balaam "Kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel by causing them to eat food that had been offered to idols and to commit sexual immorality." (Revelation 2:14) Balaam could have helped the Moabites and others to "turn to God from idols, to serve the living and true God." (1Thessalonians 1:9) However Balaam failed miserably as a prophet. He wanted to curse God's people in order to obtain the money offered to him by Balak. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:10) He loved money more than he love truth and righteousness. He "loved the wages of unrighteousness." (2 Peter 2:15-16) Balaam later conceived of a way to destroy

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Welcome to the services of the Grandview Pines church of Christ

We are thankful to be able to gather to worship our God (John 4:24). Visitors, please take time to fill out a card and place it in the collection plate. If you have questions about what you see or hear we would be glad to answer them after the service. We hope all leave edified and uplifted.

News, Notes & Nouncements

Youth Devotional Sign-up List

A new sign-up sheet for our fourth Sunday youth devotionals has been placed in the foyer.

We also have a sign-up sheet for the men who are willing to give the devotionals.

Bible Study

Sunday Morning

Topic: The book of Philippians.

Teacher: George Vinson

Wednesday Night

Topic: The book of John

Teacher: Terry Claunch

Monthly - November 18th

Topic: How to Study your Bible

Teacher: George Vinson

Our Shut-Ins

Please take the time to call, visit, or send a card to our Shut-Ins.

Linda Bush - Prattville Rehab & Nursing Home, RM 212.

Katie King - Room 308, 95 Charlton Place, Old Prattville Hwy. 290-2966

Barnabas Board

We want to encourage everyone to use the board in the foyer for posting notes of edification, thanks, etc.

Shut In Communion Sign-Up List

A sign-up list for taking communion to our shut-ins is posted in the foyer.

Please help us serve our shut-ins in this manner. (James 1:27)

Cell Phone Usage

Please silence cell phones so our worship services will not be interrupted. Please do not be disrespectful to God and those assembled by sending or receiving messages during class and worship. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Merry Wood Lodge

We will meet with the residents at four this afternoon. Come join us as we sing and study.

Upcoming Youth Events

November 13th - **Area Wide Devo** Hosted by the Liberty congregation

WE LEAVE AT 4:00 THIS AFTERNOON

December 11th - **Area Wide Devo** Hosted by the Wetumpka congregation

February 24-26 - **Challenge Youth Conference**

Creation/Evolution Debate

The recent debate will be made available on DVD. More info will come.

Serve Those Serving For Us

The Ladies' Bible Class has a new service project to show our love and concern for family members of our congregation who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. **If you have a family member deployed, please provide complete mailing information and a list of items they would like to Glenda Gregory or Beverly Vinson as soon as possible.** We are asking the congregation to buy these items and/or contribute to their purchase and the \$12.95 per box shipping cost. Copies of the compiled lists and a collection container will be in the foyer. Some preliminary suggestions include canned meats like Spam and Vienna sausages, beef jerky, nuts, and boxed microwavable (add water) pasta dishes. Personal items will be listed brand specific.

Pictorial Directory

Over the next few weeks we will be taking pictures after services for our new pictorial directory. Please have your family's picture taken so we can have an updated directory.

Do You Know Your Bible?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15

This Week's Question:

Who was being made fun of for being bald, and what happened to those that were mocking him?

Answer to Last Week's Question

Who saw a vision of a sheet lowered to earth by its four corners?

Peter

Acts 10 : 9 - 16

Bulletin Updates, Changes & Removal of Names

Don't forget to let us know if prayer list or other bulletin information needs to be changed.

Please email Trey Harvell by Friday night. trey.harvell@gmail.com

Prayer List

... but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. — *Philippians 4:6*

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Lee Bowren - (A. Sadler's mother) in nursing home in Heber Springs, AR.

David Brown - (Mont. Police officer) - recovering from serious motorcycle accident.

Jesse Claunch - Recovering from illness.

Cliff Cleveland - Skin cancer removal. Good results from his last doctor's visit. Cliff thanks the congregation for their prayers.

Hulon Cooper and his wife Barbara - (B. Little's family) In motorcycle accident, sister-in-law broke her leg.

Jackie Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Rickey Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Russell Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Jerry Davidson - (Director of Guyana missions) Parkinson's Disease.

Charles Dobbins - (friend of the May family) under hospice care.

Sydney Fuller - (G. Fuller's bother) has two inoperable aneurisms. Continue to pray for him.

Addison Hall - will be seeing another doctor for second opinion.

Kylie Hall - Surgery on her ear drum on the 30th of November.

Fredrick Harbaugh - Continuing to deal with illness.

Marilyn Hatcher - (E. Howard's mother) Returned home from chemo treatments.

Tim Johnson - (G. Shelton's uncle) is undergoing cancer treatments. Cancer has spread to his liver.

Angel Koche - expecting

Holly Sadler (Jay's wife) diagnosed with diabetes and liver damage.

Rayford Lee - (J. Sadler's father-in-law)

Walter & Cheryl May - (R. May's parents) both facing physical ailments.

Hendon Mixon - (M. Hall's grandfather) had a pacemaker inserted recently.

Kevin Moody - Blood pressure.

Ann Morris (friend of the Fullers) cancer treatment in NC

Melanie Payne finished physical therapy.

Martha Pilkinton (Glenda Gregory's sister-in-law) terminal cancer.

Peggy Rice - (Janice Claunch's mother)

Peggy Stabler - Fourth Stage Kidney Failure

Carolyn Stanley - (Coworker of Jeremy and T. Harvell) Undergoing several procedures including spinal surgery over the next few months.

June Stringer - Needs prayers and support.

Tina Tatum - will continue to see doctor every 6 months to monitor illness.

Mickey Thomas - (former member) Room 313 Prattville Rehab.

Amy Turner - continuing to deal with illness.

Kevin Turner - ALS

Juanita Waggoner - (M. Stinson's aunt) advanced stage of Parkinson's Disease.

Wayne Weldon - (A. Hammonds' father) Will have surgery on November 4th (in Birmingham) for his prostate cancer.

Garrett Young - heart problems.

Military personnel & their families

- Stewart Burkey - (Afghanistan)
- Joshua Corey - deployed
- Keith Golden (Goldens' son)
- David Howard - being deployed on November 22nd
- Britt Shores (Afghanistan)

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Israel. Beautiful Moabite women were sent into the camp of Israel. They went there to lead Israel into sexual sins and once that was accomplished the women would led the men of Israel to worship Baal. (2 Peter 2:14-16) Balaam knew what pleased the Lord, but obeying the Lord did not please Balaam.

Through this Biblical account we observe how God dealt with Balaam. God was very specific in telling Balaam what to do. "And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed." (Numbers 22:12) God gave Balaam the unmistakable sign of the talking donkey and the angel that he was in serious danger if he disobeyed. (Numbers 22:21-35) Even the donkey had better sense than Balaam. God was patient and longsuffering with Balaam as he kept associating with Balak and trying to get money for cursing God's people. (Numbers 24:10-13) Balaam tried to cure Israel but each time God turned the curse into a blessing. He tried three times from three different locations but he was able only to pronounce blessing on Israel and not a curse. Balak was upset he did not pay him the money that Balaam thought he would receive. Balaam's wicked counsel led to many in Israel being punished with death. (Numbers 31:14-18) Balaam was so overcome by worldliness that his values did not reflect the righteousness of God. He knew what God expected but he tried to find happiness in the world.

Through this Biblical account we observe the end of Balaam's life. Balaam was remembered in Joshua's farewell speech. "Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you: But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand. (Joshua 24:8-10) Jude wrote, "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." (Jude 1:11) Finally a sad and misdirected life came to an end as Balaam was killed in the days of Joshua. "Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them." (Joshua 13:22) Balaam failed to obey God. What a waste!

The importance of obedience cannot be stressed too much. Peter wrote, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Peter 4:17) Will you accept God's wonderful good news that Jesus died for your sins? Will you be baptized into Christ to put on Christ so that your sins can be forgiven by His blood? (Galatians 3:26-27) Believers contact Christ's saving blood by being baptized into His death. Those that become children of God have reason to rejoice. (Acts 8:39) The obedient can rejoice because Jesus is the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (Hebrews 5:8-9)

*Privileged to Serve
Sunday Worship Services*

Today: November 13th Next Week: November 20th

AM Service

Announcements	Jim Hammonds	Jason Hall
Song Leader	Tom Young	George Vinson
Opening Prayer	Jim Cox	Robert Golden
Closing Prayer	Glenn Fuller	Charles Price
Scripture Reading	Trey Harvell Matthew 6:25-34	Tim Ashley Ephesians 4:10-16
Lord's Table - Head	George Vinson	Sammie Girod
Lord's Table - Serve	Christopher May Bryant Weldon Ricky Obert Luke Wright	Nick Girod Jim Ezekiel Ricky May Ben Cooper

PM Service

Announcements	Jim Hammonds	Jason Hall
Song Leader	Tom Young	George Vinson
Opening Prayer	Lary Sadler	Lonnie Burkey
Closing Prayer	Cliff Cleveland	Tim Ashley
Lord's Table	George Vinson	Sammie Girod
3rd Sunday Invitation		Lary Sadler

Sunday Helpers' List

Foyer Attendant	Alex Stinson	Bryant Weldon
Greeters	Miranda Stinson Lonnie Burkey	Tom Young Ricky May

Wednesday Bible Study

This Week: November 16th Next Week: November 23rd

Song Leader	Ben Cooper	Nick Girod
Invitation	Jeremy Claunch	George Vinson
Closing Prayer	Luke Wright	Tom Young

If you cannot meet your scheduled duty & cannot find a replacement,
please contact Jim Hammonds.

Elders:

Terry Claunch 285-4142
 Jim Cox 303-0414
 Glenn Fuller 365-4923
 Lary Sadler 285-7455
 George Vinson 262-3440

Deacons:

Lonnie Burkey 467-9444
 Jason Hall 549-1869
 James Woodruff 285-2947
 Luke Wright 205-280-6454

Minister:

Terry Claunch
 Study 285-6327
 Home 285-4142
 Cell 313-1539

Work of Evangelism:

Home Bible Studies
 Bible Correspondence Studies
 Biblical Tracts
 Staton & Tutwiler Prisons
 Sermon CDs & Cassettes
 Gospel Broadcasting Network

Work of Benevolence:

Food Pantry
 Guyana Missions - Summerdale
 Congregation
 1st Sun. singing - Autumn Place
 2nd Sun. singing - Merry Wood Lodge
 Clothes for Panama
 Eye Glasses for Thailand
 Assistance to those in need

Work of Edification:

Sunday
 Bible Class 9:00 AM
 Worship 10:00 AM
 Worship 5:00 PM
 Wednesday
 Ladies' Class 10:30 AM
 Bible Class 7:00 PM

Internet

www.grandviewpineschurch.org
 contact@grandviewpineschurch.org
Look for us on Facebook!
 (Grandview Pines church of Christ &
 Grandview Pines church of Christ Youth)

Where We Meet

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