

E9. Balaam and the Donkey

Numbers 22:21-35

Memory Verse

"The Lord will guide you always." --Isaiah 58: 11

Bible Lesson

Message: *Let God guide you.*

Balaam's Donkey

Balaam got up one morning. He put a saddle on his donkey. Then he went with the Moabite leaders. But God became very angry because Balaam went. So the angel of the Lord stood in the road to stop him. Balaam was riding on his donkey. His two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road. The angel was holding a sword. So the donkey left the road and went into a field. Balaam hit the donkey to force it to get back on the road.

Then the angel of the Lord stood on a narrow path between two vineyards. There were walls on both sides. Again, the donkey saw the angel of the Lord. So the donkey walked close to the wall. It crushed Balaam's foot against the wall and so Balaam hit the donkey again.

Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead again. He stood in a narrow place. There was no room to turn, either right or left. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord. So it lay down under Balaam. That made him angry and he hit the donkey with his walking stick.

Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth and made him talk. It said to Balaam, "What have I done to you? Why did you hit me those three times?"

Balaam answered the donkey. He said, "You have made me look foolish and that made me very angry."

The donkey said to Balaam, "I'm your very own donkey. I'm the one you have always ridden. Haven't you been riding me to this very day? Have I ever made you look foolish before?"

"No," Balaam said.

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes. He saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road. He saw that the angel was holding a sword. The angel was ready for battle. So Balaam bowed down. He fell with his face to the ground.

The angel of the Lord spoke to him. He asked him, "Why have you hit your donkey three times? I have come here to stop you. What you are doing is wrong. The donkey saw me. It turned away from me three times. Suppose it had not turned away. Then you would certainly have died. But the donkey would have lived."

Balaam spoke to the angel of the Lord. He said, "I have sinned. I didn't realize you were standing in the road to stop me. If I am wrong, I will go back."

The angel of the Lord spoke to Balaam. He said, "Go with these men from Balak. But say only what I tell you to say." So Balaam listened and went with Balak's leaders.



Talk About It

In today's story, we learn how God was able to guide Balaam using an angel and a donkey. There are many instances in the Bible when God gave His people instructions in order to guide them on how to live or where to go. Explain to your child that God also expects us to follow His instructions and obey His commandments as He guides us through our lives. God shows us how to live, what to do and what things to stay away from so that we can have a better life, a life that will please Him. Talk with your child about how God is able to guide us each day. We can use our Bibles to find out how God wants us to live. We can also learn how to follow God in Sunday school and in the Divine Services, or from special people in our lives like our teachers, parents and others who help to keep us from doing things that would not please God. Remind your child that God doesn't always use words to tell us what to do, but if we pay attention, we will know he is there to guide us. Share with your child a time when God was able to guide you in your life. Talk about it.