

IF I COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS #1 BALAAM'S DONKEY

2Peter 2 ¹⁵ They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Years ago a song was written with these words "If I could talk to the animals and they could talk to me". In the past we have had animals breaking into the church. A deer jumps through a window cutting himself, leaving blood and hair in the sanctuary before hitting the glass doors to escape. A squirrel gets in the church and chews up the door in the nursery and is later caught in the hall way.

I have said the presence of God is so great in our church that even animals are trying to get in.

For the next few weeks we are going to allow the animals of the bible to speak to us.

The story of Balaam's donkey is indeed humorous and miraculous. For further insight we must examine Numbers 22. Here is how the story unfolds.

Numbers 22 ²¹ Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. ²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road. ²⁴ Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. ²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again.

²⁶ Then the angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. ²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. ²⁸ Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.”

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?” “No,” he said.

³¹ Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

³² The angel of the Lord asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. ³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her.”

³⁴ Balaam said to the angel of the Lord, “I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back.”

God can give speech to anything. He said “if we don’t worship him the rocks will cry out!”

If this donkey could talk to us, what would he say?

1. The animal had more insight than the prophet -“Are you blind?”

Numbers 22 ²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field.

There is something that sets animals apart from humans.

Animals act out of instinct. Humans have a spirit; Yet this donkey more insight than the prophet.

A. The prophet was blinded with the impure motives.

2Peter ... “who loved the wages of wickedness”.

Beware of always basing every decision based on money instead of the will of God.

B. Blinded by our own desire

Like Balaam we are in such a hurry to get where we are going, so into what we are going to do when we get there that we cannot see what is glaring in front of us.

2. When patterns in your life are broken God may be attempting to speak to you.

“Is this my normal behavior?” V 30

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?” This is not the way the donkey had acted previously.

When things have served you well and suddenly without warning a series of problems develop, it may be God wanting your attention.

Three times the donkey attempted to save Balaam’s life.

Once he got off the road, another he leaned against the wall and when he could no longer proceed he just fell to the ground.

The donkey asked him “have I been in the habit of doing this to you?”

The donkey is the vehicle that was taking Balaam to his assignment.

When Israel left Egypt they had manna on the ground each day for 40 years. They had cloud by day and fire by night each day for 40 years.

When they crossed Jordan the cloud disappeared, the manna stopped. Why? God was going to change the way they had been living.

3. A person can take their anger out on the one servicing them.

“What have I done to you?” v 28

The donkey asked “What have I done to you to make you **beat me** these three times?”

The donkey had just saved his life!

A. Balaam was so angry he beat her.

Have you ever gotten angry when your car failed you kicked it?

your flight was cancelled you?

you didn’t get your way you made some

one else life miserable?

One will often curse the tools he is using; the dullness of the saw, the knife that wounded the hand, beat the dog or horse, scolds the children.
Balaam is in a fit of ill temper brought on by his own wrong doing!

B. He is so angry he cannot appreciate an obvious attempt of God, a miracle (a donkey talking), to get him back on course.

C. He was so angry he wanted to kill.

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.

His anger comes from feeling like the animal has mocked him or made a fool of him.

Have you ever been beaten for doing something right?
making a right decision?

Moses was constantly second guessed by Israel.
David’s own men at one point considered killing him.
Even **Jesus himself** had people attempt the kill him.

These were serving, but suffering from others anger for leading.

Their anger comes because they cannot see what you see nor have knowledge of the facts that formed your decision.

4. “If you could see what I see you would thank me”

²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field.

³¹ **Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn.** So he bowed low and fell facedown.

He repented by admitting, “I have sinned”.

How many times has something stopped you continuing down the road to death?

A plane was delayed, your car broke down, the house loan didn't go through fast enough, etc. If you had not been stopped certain tragedy would have occurred.

**5. “God will go to extreme measures to bless his people”
God can save us from ourselves.**

2Peter 2 16... “restrained the prophet’s madness”

When Balak was determined to have a curse placed upon Israel God would use a donkey to keep a man on course to bless them.

Even if he has to use a pagan, false prophet, he can use anyone or anything to accomplish his mission.

Why would God use a donkey to do the talking? It was a symbol of the man's heart that was riding it. God was showing Balaam himself; stubborn and self-willed.