1 - “I Have Sinned” … And?

Numbers 22:34, Learning from the sin of Balaam.

2 - **The Context**

**Balak** hired Balaam to curse the Israelites.

**Balaam**, a prophet of God, could only speak what God told him.

God tells Balaam, *“****Do not go with them****; you shall not curse the people; for they are blessed.”* (Numbers 22:12)

Balaam, *“****The Lord has refused*** *to let me go with you…”*

3 - Balaam Persists

Balak then sent more influential men to try and persuade Balaam and ***“honor”*** (make wealthy) him. (Joshua 22:15-17)

Balaam seeks a new revelation from God, *“I will find out* ***what else*** *the Lord will speak with me.”* (Joshua 22:19)

Be careful about looking for a new revelation or new interpretation! (Job 11:14; Ezekiel 14:4-5)

4 - **God Gave Them Over…**

**Balaam asks God again** - God’s answer is *“****If*** *the men have come to call you,* ***rise up and go with them****; but only the word which I speak you shall do.”* (Numbers 22:20)

Verse 21 indicates that Balaam **didn’t wait to find out** or **simply presumed**. (Jude 11; 2 Peter 2:15)

If we are **bent on doing our will** and seeking our own pleasure, God will *“give us over”* (Romans 1:21-24) that we might receive our *“due penalty”*.
(1 Samuel 8:7; 12:17-20)

5 - **God Was Angry With Balaam**

**Verse 22**

As Balaam goes to meet Balak, an angel of the Lord stood in his way. His donkey sees the angel but Balaam does not. He strikes his donkey and then the donkey asks him ***“What have I done to you?”***

Balaam says he’d kill the donkey if he could. The irony is that the donkey saved his life.

6 - **“I Have Sinned”**

**Verse 31-35**

Balaam eyes are opened to see the angel and says ***“I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me”*** and that the angel would have killed him except for his donkey. (Matthew 16:22-23)

Now, between a rock and a hard place, Balaam confesses, ***“I have sinned”***. Has his will changed? Has he repented?

7 - **Balaam Offers Sacrifices**

Numbers 23:1-3, not according to the Lord but their idolatrous customs to try and appease God.

* Does God want **sacrifice or obedience**?
(1 Samuel 15:21-23)

“Perhaps the Lord will come to meet me…” Are we looking for **God to meet us** or are we to seek Him? (Idolatry - **the god yields to the will of man**. Acts 17:27; cf., 1 Kings 22)

8 - **God Speaks Through Balaam**

Balaam actually blesses them. (Numbers 23:7-11)

Changing the perspective doesn’t change God’s will. (Numbers 23:13-26; 24:1-25)

Balaam had to speak only what God told him. **Balaam did NOT have to submit to God in his life though**.

Balaam accomplished bringing a curse on the Israelites by tempting them with immorality. (Numbers 25:1-9; 31:16; Revelation 2:14)

9 - **Lessons Learned**

The most critical thing we need to yield is our will to God. (Matthew 16:24)

Accept God’s word without questioning and arguing! (James 1:19-22)

Confession without repentance does not equal forgiveness. (Jeremiah 7:5)