



Series: Wisdom From The Wilderness

Passage Numbers 22:1-35

Title Deceptions of a Divided Heart

Speaker: Dave Menard

Discussion Starter: Do you sometimes forget that in this world we have an enemy?

We Have an Enemy (Numbers 22:1-6, Proverbs 4:23)

- Why do you think the Bible puts so much emphasis on guarding our hearts? Who are we supposed to be guarding our hearts from?
- What warning about the enemy did Jesus give to his young disciple Peter in the upper room? How does a much older and wiser Peter describe the enemy in 1Peter 5:8?
- We are introduced to a man named Balak, the king of Moab, who driven by **fear, greed and insecurity** is seeking to place a curse upon the Israelites. Discuss the methods of deception does Satan uses in this story and how it relates to us.

God's Direct Will (Numbers 22:7-14)

- God never asks a question for His own benefit (He always asks for for our benefit). Discuss what God is trying to get Balaam to see by asking this question in 22:9.
- God's direct will is always clearly revealed. What were the three things that God clearly directed Balaam to follow in 22:12? How did Balaam respond? Why is it hard for Balaam to fully obey?
- How does the way God speaks with Balaam in this passage differ from how He spoke to Moses? What does that reveal to us about the differences of Moses' and Balaam's relationship with God?

The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:15-35)

- Balaam obeyed God and then temptation came knocking again a second time. What do we learn from this?
- Why is it that even when we know God's direct will we are prone to depart from it and do things our own way?
- Even after God warns him, Balaam continues to run to his own desires. Discuss how far off track God allows / or doesn't allow Balaam to go. What does this teach us as to how God moves in our lives?
- Balaam did not see The Angel of the LORD but Balaam's donkey did! What message is God communicating through this bizarre account? How can it also apply to us today?