



Series: Wisdom in the Wilderness

Passage Numbers 22:36-41, 23:1-25

Title Deceptions of a Divided Heart – Part II

Speaker: Dave Menard

Discussion Starter: Has your own ambition or desire for something ever blinded you in a way that opposed God's will in your life?

The High Places of BAAL (Numbers 22:36-41)

- What character traits do we see being revealed in both Balak and Balaam based on their first exchange in person?
- Balak takes Balaam to the high places of Baal, a place of idol worship, sexual rituals and human sacrifices which were the common cultural practices of the day. What parallels do you see in Balak's temptation techniques as compared to how Satan tempted Jesus (Luke 4:5-8)? What truth can we glean about where our eyes should be focused from how Jesus responds to Satan's temptation?

False Religions Plagiarize from God (Numbers 23:1-4)

- What are some of the rituals you see here that seem to come from God and what are some rituals we see of the false religions and cults in today's world?

Trusting God's Word (Numbers 23:6-20)

- Why is it so important and how are we encouraged when we trust in God's Word?
- Why do you think God spoke through Balaam and directed his Oracle toward Balak? (c/f Romans 5:8-10)

What God Does for Us (Numbers 23:21-24)

- Consider the following verses: Psalm 103:12-13; Isaiah 1:18; Romans 4:7-8
What does this reveal to us about the love God has for us and how He is so willing to forgive our sins?
- Discuss how Balaam's prophecy reveals the following subjects in Num 23:21:
1) The Gospel message. 2) Fellowship with God. 3) The Kingdom of heaven. Fruit that glorifies God (23:24)
- What did it mean for the Israelites to have a life of fellowship with Him and to live in His Kingdom and how is that meaning the same or different for us today?
- God wants us to follow His plan for our lives so that our lives will be fruitful. How is a fruitful life measured according to God's standards and how does that often differ from the culture of the world we live in?