

## “I Just Wanted To Help!”

I think the hardest part about being a Christian is watching is watching a brother suffer. Sometimes to be Christ like, sometimes to be Christ like, means having to step away and let God’s hand be on someone else. And that’s the hardest thing to watch, to feel, to see, but most of all to do. For we are always trying to do what is best for other people, were always trying. And we always say these words, “I was only trying to help!” There’s a statement that says, “the road to ruin is paved with good intentions.” We’re going to talk about that road to ruin today, only because someone needs it more than someone else. You see, we all want to do what is good for our family and our friends, we all want to do what is good just for God Himself. But sometimes we just got to get out of the way so God can be God and let God unfold. So let’s read about that. Go to **Numbers chapter 22**.

We’re going to start in **Numbers 22:22-32**. It’s a familiar scripture to some, it will be new to others. It’s about Balaam, the donkey, and the Angel of God. I like this story, sometimes I find myself in the position of Balaam, and sometimes I find myself in the position of the donkey. Let’s read from v.22, it says;

*v.22 Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the Lord took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.*

*v.23 Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in His way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.*

*v.24 Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.*

*v.25 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again.*

*v.26 Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.*

*v.27 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam’s anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.*

*v.28 Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”*

*v.29 And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have abused me. I wish there was a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!”*

*v.30 So the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?” And he said, “No.”*

*v.31 Then the Lord opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.*

*v.32 And the Angel of the Lord said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.” Let’s stop there.*

This one was hard, because all the donkey was saying was; “I was just trying to help!” Because I knew God was going to come against you. And I knew God was going to strike you dead. And I knew God was going to bring correction so I wanted to maneuver you, to guide you, to lead you away from the wrath of God, I just wanted to help! See Balaam is the one who needs help, and isn’t that our family, isn’t that our friends? Isn’t that all those people that stand there who are walking Christians, people who know God and we are watching them go down the wrong path? And then we are the donkey, it is us, we are the ones who they ride on, the ones who they count on, the ones who they look forward to speaking to, to get counsel, to get direction, they look to us! But see, when we feel that they are going down the wrong path we, ourselves, will take it upon ourselves to turn from the path because we know what is ahead for them. And we, instead of allowing God who is the Angel with the drawn sword, to have His way, we’ll turn and force them to go on a different path because we don’t want them to get hurt.

But guess what happens? You get beaten by the very hand that your trying to help. They don’t appreciate what you are doing because they don’t understand. They may not see what you are doing because, the donkey could see the Angel, Balaam could not. And a lot of times it is that way. We are not going to be able to see what God has before men and women, but yet, we want to help anyway. Sometimes we’ll see the Angel of death, sometimes we’ll see the Angel of correction, and sometimes we’ll see the Angel before them with His sword drawn and God is ready to bring correction and chastisement to His people. But see, we don’t want them to get hurt, we don’t want them to suffer. So we will turn aside for them and take them along the way because they ride on our backs. Because isn’t that way they are in our lives? Isn’t that a good Christian? Isn’t that the intention of Christianity? To carry the burdens of his brother and not let him fall? You see, all people have good intentions, it is the nature of God, goodness, to not see our brother suffer. All have good intentions, and that’s not what is judged, it is the method that we use to bring forth that good intention that leads to a dead end.

See the end result of that intention, because of the method, leads to a dead end. They ended up, the third time, in a lane that they could not turn to the left or to the right. Even the Angel of God made it difficult for you and I to go any further to help them. Is it going to have to take that? To be beaten along the path, along the way, because of good intentions, because we don’t

want them to get hurt, we don't want them to be corrected. How are they going to know the faults of their ways, the errors of their ways if we take them and guide them wherever they need to go? We can not! We cannot stand in the way of the sword drawn by God, we cannot. The Angel of God will do what He needs to and has to according to the commandment of the Lord, and our job is to get out of the way of the hand of God. For if you are going to stand in the way you will get beaten! Again, and again, and the Lord will make it very difficult for you to turn to the left or to the right, He will narrow you down and the only thing you can do is fall on your face and play dead.

Now I found it interesting that when the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, the donkey spoke and says, "*Why have you beaten me these three times, have I (in short) have I not been faithful to you? Have I not helped you every single time since you've had me?* You know? And isn't that how we feel, that we have to continue this faithfulness? We have to continue helping, we have to continue getting in the way, we have to continue being burdened and beaten so that someone else can live? So that they, themselves can find their way towards God by the way that we think they should go because of the path we put them on? I tell you what, it is a scary thing to be in the hand of Go; he who speaks of that, 'it is a scary thing to be in the hand of God', but like David says, "I would rather be in the hand of God than be in the hands of men." For I know that my God has me even though He corrects me. Finally the eyes of Balaam was opened and he saw the Angel of the Lord. He says I've been doing this because your way is perverse. We know their way is perverse, we know they do not see the way that we see. We know they cannot see the Angel's hand of correction coming. But see, even though, how did you get to where you are at now? How did you find God? How many times where you beaten by the Angel to get closer to God? That should be your example of how to treat other people. Why? Good intentions is one thing, the method that you take to bring that good intention forth is what is bad. We mean well, but meaning well and good intentions will lead to ruin, because were doing it because were trying to save them.

And that is not a bad thing, for the Lord says in Galatians, to carry the burdens of your brother, those who are spiritually strong help those who are weak. But that doesn't mean we have to get in the way. That doesn't mean we have to walk the path for them, that doesn't mean they have to ride on our faith and our relationship with God, that's not what God is talking about. What He's talking about is when you see your brother, who is in pain and is suffering, and when you see someone who is not going down the right way, get on your face and pray. Because God is going to do what He has to do and what He needs to do what He got to do because that who He needs to correct is blind to the errors of his own ways. And you cannot make him see that, he's going to have to fall, he's going to have to go through darkness, he's going to have to be chastised, he's going to have to suffer and fall into darkness, he's going to fall away and be divided, this has to happen! It has to or they will never see a greater saving God! He will never see it and if they do not see it, who are you? We are the vessels that come forth and say we will do anything that you have for us, and we will walk the way and do whatever we need to for our brother, but one thing we will not do is stand in the way of God! We cannot! Or we will end up taking God's place, we'll end up being in that place that God needs to be because of our good intentions, then God will make the path more narrow, and more narrow, and more narrow, that you, yourself, won't be able to move any further.

You know, I stand here and picture so many people, and so many times in my life while I'm walking with God that I did exactly as the donkey did, and I can also see the many times that I was corrected for getting in the way. And the correction was greater then the deliverance. Isn't that amazing? The correction and the beating that I got to deliver one man from what I thought was the hand of God, was greater then the deliverance that God gave to that man. See we try to do what we feel Christianity is about. Being Christ like, to be the one to sacrifice, to be the one to suffer, but there is two things going on, there is good intentions and there is the truth that we walk by. The good intention is not the truth, the good intention is not the truth, the good intention is the result of the flesh. "I don't want them to get hurt, I don't want them to feel pain, I don't want them to suffer, I don't want them to see darkness, I don't want that for them", God knows your heart, if that's what you don't want then pray those things. But God's gonna do what God wants to do and God needs to do, because He knows the heart of the other person. See, we only have a facsimile or a facade or an image of what we think their going through, we have no idea what their actually going through. We see the results of their walk, we see the patterns of their behavior, and we say that they got to be going through this, but you see it's greater then that. But we don't see the greater then that, we only assume it's like this, so we want to help them out this, but in helping them out of this were getting in the way because it's more then that.

See, the donkey didn't know that Balaam was taking money for prophesying he didn't know that this was the thing that Balaam was doing. The donkey just wanted to love him, the donkey just wanted to serve him, and the donkey just wanted to do what he always did, help him! Protect him! Deliver him! That's all the donkey wanted to do, not realizing that God was trying to chastise him because of his iniquity. You see the donkey found no iniquity in Balaam until Balaam started to beat her. Then she says, 'why are you beating me?' Why do we have to suffer for the fall of man? Why do we have to suffer because our children won't listen? Why do we have to suffer because our neighbor won't have peace with us? Why do we have to suffer? We don't! We don't have to suffer, we choose to suffer! The moment you step out and try to take a hold to make the situation better, God cannot work. So you will suffer because you chose to get in the way, you chose to guide and lead this path, you chose to set everything right apart from God. God got His own plan! But if you know who God is, no matter what path you may take, no matter what you may say, no matter what you do, it will be right in the eyes of God! Because that's who God is, God is very just in everything He does and He doesn't chastise anybody if they don't need it, He doesn't hurt anybody if they don't need to be hurt, and He doesn't deliver anybody who doesn't need or want deliverance. God will do what God needs to do because He is right and true. His ways are greater, His thought's are greater, His mindset is greater, His image of you is greater then you cab ever imagine, that's why we cannot get in the way.

You see, the calls of men we do not know, but God knows. He knows your ministry, He knows your gifts, He knows where He's going to take you and what He wants you to do. But see, I don't know! We don't know. But sometimes people got to suffer great things to be in a great position. They got to be blinded before they see, they got to fall before they rise up, they got to! So that one day they can tell somebody, 'this is how I rose up out of the pit, this is how I got to see, I was blind but now I see, my God has delivered me.' And their ministries and their calls will be greater then it has ever been before. Why? Because they suffered for that lesson, suffered for that testimony! Let them have that testimony! Let them have it! Don't take it from them or rob them, let God do what God's going to do! And I tell you what, it's a hard thing to watch because we just want to help. We just want to help! I found it interesting, you know, because I say that a lot. We cannot help God out, God is going to do what God needs to do! It is a fearful thing, like I said, **Hebrews 10:31**, *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* But like David said, there's no place else I'd rather be, no matter what it brings, at least I'm in the hands of God. Amen?!

Go to Romans chapter 7, let's continue there. Look at what Paul says about the law cannot save from sin. Were gonna start in verse 13.

*v.13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.*

*v.14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

*v.15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice, but what I hate, that I do.*

*v.16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.*

*v.17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

*v.18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.* The he goes on to say,

*v.19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*

*v.20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

*v.21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.*

Let's stop there.

It is an evil that wills to do good. You hear what Paul said in that last verse, '*I find then a law, that evil is present with me, with me, the one who wills to do good.*' The flesh side, the intention side, the side that says, I know I should let them go, I know I should let them find their own way, I know I should let God have them, but you know what? I cannot! Because I don't want to see them suffer, and sometimes it's personal gain because we say, "I just don't want to hear it anymore!" "I'm tired of their winning, I'm tired of them always complaining, let me just give them their answers so that I can be free!" Isn't that what we do sometimes to? Because we cannot take it anymore! We cannot take being burdened by their troubles, and we cannot take watching somebody suffer. It is hard for us, so our will or our flesh side will kick in and say, 'I need to help.' I want to help, but the Lord says that is just of you it is not of Me. And the moment that it becomes of you it is considered sin and that will be present in you. Because the end result is going to be bad! You know, I find it interesting that Paul, for someone who had walked by the laws of God; to have so much revelation in the spiritual side; had so much insight and clarity; that even at one time he even turned people over to the Devil, that their souls might be saved. (**1 Timothy 1:20**) He understood that if He got in the way of God, that he would be punished because God was doing something. So he opened his hand and says I'm letting God have them and I know that God is going to turn them over to Satan because their going to have to learn a lesson. I know that, so you know what? I'll just turn them over directly! Have your way! Because they won't hear the Lord. And they blaspheme God by their actions and their deeds.

Are we any different then those who God is trying to correct, when we get in the way of God? See, it doesn't look equal, right? Their the ones sinning, their the ones falling away, their the ones pulling away from God and going in a different direction when they should know better! Were just trying to help! No! We are doing what we want to do because we feel that it is right and what little that we do is equivalent to them walking away from God! It's equal, even though it doesn't look equal! Murder is no different then a lie, sin is sin no matter what the degree! And if it goes contrary to the will of God, even more so it is blaspheme! And then, we want to help! Everybody wants to help! Help me clean the house, help me wash the dishes, help me take care of my kids, but don't help me be corrected by God, God can correct me Himself! Those you love you rebuke, and you tell them straight, 'this is what I see.' But you know what? Don't take them and put them somewhere else so that they don't see the rebuke and they don't feel the presents of God. Let them hear your words, by example. They will believe in the God in you when you walk the way that your supposed to walk. Faithful, not faithful to them, faithful to God. And I find this so interesting because Paul had it down pat! One thing Paul did not want to do that we should take note of, is he refused to allow anybody to tell him how to live with God! He wanted to find out for himself, and God said he would suffer many things to know what it means to preach My gospel! And Paul was willing to hear, and he learned by walking. But Paul refused to be told this was the right way to serve God when he in himself, in his heart knew, 'no don't say that because this goes contrary to what I believe.'

If God is God, God will direct me, if God is God then God will chastise me, God will correct me, God will do those things.

Paul knew that, and if we believe that for ourselves then why can't we believe it for somebody else? It's interesting, were willing to suffer, be beaten by the rod and be crucified for somebody else. Yes? For somebody else, and yet that person will not do it for you. "But that's the Christian thing to do!" No it's stupid! How they going learn their lesson? Some people cannot hear God already, some people cannot see God, some people God has taken away knowledge, taken away their understanding, taken away their wisdom, their falling into their own fleshly desires and actions! LET THEN GO! But pray much for your brother. Pray much for your brother, go to 1 Peter chapter 5. Let me show you that!

**1 Peter 5:1-4**, It say about Shepherd the flock.

*v.1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:*

*v.2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

*v.3 Nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;*

*v.4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

What does it say? All your supposed to do is watch over them and when you see them going into the wrong direction you pray for them! Were supposed to just be overseers of one another. That's what were supposed to do, not by, what does He say? 'Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion' Not by intention! Compulsions give us an intention to do something that might not be well received. That's a compulsion, it is something that says, 'I want to do this because you know what? I don't want them to suffer. I don't want them to go without, I don't want them to not have, I don't want God to hurt them, I don't want them to get hurt because they are blind right now,' Let them get hurt! Because I tell you what, when they end up in the hospital they going call you! When they end up in jail they going call you to bail them out! They are going know who to call when the time comes, why? Because you've been praying for them! And when the time comes when they end up in that place, God will bring to remembrance and your face will show up, and they will humble themselves, and they will ask for help. We just got to let God do what God's going to do. Like I said, it's a hard place to be and it's a hard thing to watch people suffer. It's a hard thing to watch people fall and watch their relationship with God get stretched, and for some, even separate. But how else are they going to have a wonderful ministry? A powerful, great ministry if they don't see the darkness first? I tell you what, the greatest ministers of the Lord are the ones who are willing to walk the walk, talk the talk, and then after everything be hung on the cross. And then on top of that, say 'forgive them Lord' with a smile on their face because they know the glory to come. Don't worry about your brothers and sisters, you know who God is, you know what God can do, trust in the Lord with all you heart, soul, and mind, and He will take care of everything!

AMEN!