

The Straight And Narrow Path

Let's start in **Numbers 22:11**

v.11 "Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out."

Now Balak, the king of Moab, is talking to the prophet Balaam and he is asking because he knows that he is the man of God and that when he speaks God hears. Because his path is unwavering. So God will answer those whose path is straight and narrow, they don't fall away. Now here comes the king who says that he needs his help. I don't see these people as my people; I don't see these people as God's people. They just cover the land and are just insects to me. They are like the locust to him because he feels they ravish the land and he wants them out of here. So he turns to the prophet of God knowing that he is a man of God, and because he is the king of Moab he goes in says, "apparently you both have the same God, so could you come and curse them, not bless them, but curse them so they can get off my land. In other words, evict them with the power of your God.

v.12 And God said to Balaam, "you shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

v.13 So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the Lord has refused to give me permission to go with you."

v.14 And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

v.15 Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they.

So the first ones he actually sent was kind of like, they have prestige, they have title, but they are not like they others, they main guys. Not only did he send more of them, but those with greater reputation and honor in Moab. So they are clothed better, they are richer, they can offer so much more, right?

v.16 And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me;

v.17 'For I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.'"

v.18 Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak was to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more."

So now he is standing steadfast and strong, isn't he? He is!

v.19 "Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, He is offering them lodging, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me." STOP.

There's the tree, there's the water, there's the birds! You see, God already told him once, why would God change His mind? What was stopping him, or what was tempting him, was that they, were more honorable, they were more numerous. They were more than the others and there was great wealth going on there. And he looked upon them and he says, (paraphrasing) "You know what, I cannot but, why don't you guys stay here and I'll go talk to God, maybe He will change His mind and let me go with you folks. Let me go talk to God and maybe He'll say something." You see, God don't have to speak twice in the same situation. Why would God change His mind if He didn't let him the first time?

So here he is waling in a righteous path and now all of a sudden temptation is kicking in and he says, "wait, why don't you guys stay the night, and I will go talk to my God, and see what the Lord will say to me.

v.20 And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "if the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you – that you shall do." Now look what happened,

v.21 So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab."

They didn't even have to come and call him that was a big open door because he says, "Oh, I can go now! I think I'll just go and grab my donkey." But God said, "If they come to call you." But didn't they come and call on him last night? God didn't say to go with the men who came to call on you last night, He said, "If they come to call on you." They must come and call on you then you can go and speak My words." You see, he didn't even wait for that. He jumped the gun because there was something that he desired in his own heart. He

didn't look at what God was doing, he didn't listen to what God was saying to him about his walk, what he was doing was looking at what he could get if he did. Maybe I could get honor, just maybe. And he knew better! He cannot curse! God said, "These are blessed people!" Their intention was to curse. But he's not looking at if he is going to bless, or if he is going to curse, he is just looking at what he will get if he goes! "What will I get if I go?" So, "If they come and call you in the morning I will let you go." Then you can go. They didn't even call on him, he arose, saddled his donkey, and just went. That was a big open door! That was the distraction, and he fell off his path. So let's see what happens after this.

v.22 The God's anger was aroused because he went, No we know why God is angry, right? 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.

Now God rose up against him as an adversary. How many people say, "I don't if it's God or if it's the Devil doing this to me." I tell you what, as for me, as long as I walk on this path it is always going to be God! Because God will rise up as your adversary if you against Him, go against His word, the path and the way, you shall be lead astray and God will be the adversary before you. If you go against God, God has to go against you. So we go forward:

v.23 Now the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the 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?"

Now I tell you what, if my donkey's mouth would have opened and I heard those words come out of his mouth I would be freaking a little! Then I would have said something. But He doesn't show anything, no surprise expression. He is so angry that he doesn't realize that the donkey is talking! And he goes off, "Cause you that's why!" Not realizing the donkey is talking to him.

v.29 And Balaam said to the donkey, Because you have abused me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

v.30 So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey in 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. Where gonna stop there.

God's gonna let you go so far on your path that every time you fall off of the path, you'll think you've found another one. You try to compromise your path, you try to allow your path to fit in with what your doing. But see, God only has one path for you, only one. We cannot compromise that path, we cannot turn to the left or to the right, and we cannot beat up God's people along the way. What God is saying is, the path that He has put you on today, understand, you are not differ yourself from this path. This is the only path you're going to be on till kingdom come. Whoever tells you that there is a better path to go, remember the donkey! Because every path that the donkey took to get away from the sword or the adversary of God, the path will get tighter and smaller. And you going to end up in a place that you cannot get out of. You'll be so far from you original path, and then what will you do? You will fall on your face and repent. Just so God can get you back on the path. But why are you going to wait that long? Why are you going to wait for that? Everybody has a call; everybody has a purpose for the kingdom.

Everybody is a partaker in the body of Christ. There is not one person in here that can tell me, "I don't have a call!" Everyone has one. No matter how great and no matter how small, everyone has one. But it's the path that your going to walk that is going to make you see it for what it is. Your going to see it's totality, or

you're going to be dumbfounded and blinded and get misled over and over again. One thing I do know, God said this is my last path. I have walked many paths to get here, and before now is a very straight and very narrow, and very sharp path. At the end of the path is a very sharp arrow, that's the way to go. I don't see any forks in the road, but I will not stop, to differ from my path to smell the flowers, or play with the birds, and splash in the water, or to beat up on the donkey. Were supposed to be actually pushing forth the gospel. People say. "Once in awhile you have to stop and smell the flowers." It's a cliché, once in awhile stop and smell the flowers. Don't let the flower that your smelling leads you astray. Some people are on a very tight and narrow path right now, and either you are going to change and come back to the truth, or you shall truly fall into the hand of the Angel. Let's go to **Revelation Chapter 2!** Let's start in verse 12. Were going to talk about a church that compromises the word of God. They compromise the people; they compromise the manners and ways, why? Because it is better to compromise than to loose people. It's better to compromise and to over look then to stand strong on your own path and be bold in the Spirit.

v.12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things says he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

v.13 I know your works, and where you dwelt, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in those days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

v.14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

v.15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

v.16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

v.17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Let me tell you, do these two names sound familiar? The prophet refused to change; he changed his doctrine to compromise because of the king. False doctrine is rampant upon the earth right now. False belief, false truths, false manners, false paths, false ways, and they lead God's people astray. What God is saying today is to find the truth and stay with it and stop falling away by going from church to church looking for God, when all your actually looking for is a word that will help you compromise what to do. God says to repent! REPENT! The kingdom of God is at hand and there is nothing you can do except repent! So God can show you the truth. So your eyes will be open and you'll see the Angel that is before you. Then you shall know your path is wrong. Don't wait for that day, don't wait for that day, it is going to be a sad day for you if you should see that Angel! One will not change his ways and listen to the word of God, and one who is willing to compromise the word of God for self-means. We got to change our ways. The path is long, the path is narrow, and the path is sharp. Don't be differed by something that makes you feel good, don't be differed by the roses that you smell. Don't be differed by that beauty on the side of your path, remember, the beauty is not on your path, it is away from it. And if you go after that beauty, that, which the eyes behold, will lead you astray.

I was looking at Matthew for the past two days. For two days God has been talking to me about **Matthew chapter 7**. Go there now. Verse 13 & 14, God kept saying the same thing over and over and over.

v.13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

v.14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

It's not easy walking in the path. It's not easy living a Godly and spiritual life day in and day out. But we got something that those who do not know him they do not have, we have mercy, we have grace, we have salvation in the truth. But you have to grab hold of the truth and stand on it. Because it is the narrow way that you walk that God is looking for. He is not looking for compromise. Some people I talked to, I said this one time, to another pastor, "You hold your arms to wide, (holding arms far apart) you open your arms and you say, "Come It's okay." But my arms are like this, (holding them in front of me only a shoulder's width apart) And I will take you in and I will take you close. But you go like this (spreading arms far apart) because you allow, as wide as your arms are, it's as wide as the compromise. It's okay, pastor so-and-so, it's okay, it's okay that your people

are sleeping with others, it's okay. But you know what I say; you must repent! I say, let her go it's another man's wife. Don't hang on to that man let him go. Oh, it's okay, it's okay, and you say, she doesn't serve God in anyway, it's all right. Just come once a month and we can lay hands on you. It's okay if you don't come to church and praise God with the rest of the fellowship, it's okay. You spend your own time, and you do your own thing but you come here once a month and you take communion once a month and it's the only time you show up, try that here!" It's not okay! It's not okay to compromise the word of God! The way is narrow, it is hard and it's difficult, but it's worth it! Let me tell you, it is so worth it! Your eyes will be opened and you shall see the truth. Who wants to see the truth? The only way to see it is if you eliminate everything else and follow that narrow path and you shall see it so clearly. Go to **Luke chapter 18**. I just read this, this morning. Chapter 18, verse 18 of Luke.

v.18 Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

v.19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? He asked, "why do you call me good? Because if you what I was going to say you wouldn't like it. No one is good but One, that is, God.

v.20 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'"

v.21 And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

v.22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

v.23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

Hard to let go, isn't it? It's hard to let go when you are so familiar; it's hard to let go when you have been there for so many years. It's hard to let go when the emotions are high, when I feel like I am in the right place, "Oh the praise and worship is good, all those things, the word is good." But all your doing is praising God with bunch of hoopla and it's just a big party, why not we just put on our party hats and do that? Bust out your cheerleader pompoms because that's all your doing. Cheering on some man that comes behind the pulpit and give sad doctrine and tells you that it's okay for you to sin! What is that? It is time for you to give up what you have, get upon the path and follow the path of righteousness. There's only one way to get in, and that is through the narrow gate. I'm trying to help you to get there. If you cannot receive this, I'm sorry. No blood on my hands! But the path is long and the path is narrow, and the path is sharp and it's straight. There's no kinks in the road, there's no forks in the road, and forget the beauty, shoot for God! Shooting for God is all the beauty you need! Because when He opens your eyes you will see heaven and you will see it in all its beauty and all it's glory, you shall see it. Isn't that worth it? Isn't that worth it?

What we have now that comes into our hands is beautiful to our eyes, pleasing to our stomachs, what we have now is temporary. All temporary. It's hard, it's hard to walk the straight and it's hard to walk the narrow. But don't forget, you folks are not alone. Everyone puts themselves on a path then says, "I'm alone". No, Look to your left, and look to your right, there is another path beside you that your brother and sister is standing on. So why don't we walk our own paths together. Is that hard? But we compromise God and say, "well I'm all alone, and its just me on this path, and I got to do this, and I got to go this way so no one can really tell me which way to turn, and no one can really tell me what I need to do and what I need to let go. Nobody really can. And it's okay if I keep this, it's okay because God knows I really need this. Okay, so if I know about this or that, that's okay, she's my good friend, she's carrying on with another man, that's okay, she'll find out for herself, I cannot tell her that!" But you know what? Who am I? Who am I? Standing before all of you and tell you that the path that you are walking is wrong? When I myself have to fight for my salvation daily. Daily were striving for righteousness, daily were striving for our salvation, it is not guaranteed. Because I may fall tonight I will loose all my salvation. This is not guaranteed you. Strive for your righteousness daily, stick to the straight and the narrow, and eliminate the things that your know is not of our Father.

It's very easy to see, I'll tell you how you can tell, If it does not line up with God's voice or the word of God, if it doesn't sink into your Spirit man, It's not of God. Because the word should cut like a two-edged sword, the word should sink so you get filled. You feel empty? It should actually provoke you to question your path. It should actually poke you and make you think and ask, "Lord. And I walking the right path?" It's time for you to start evaluating your path, take a look. The word of God is that way. The word of God brings comfort when need be, and the word of God is a sword when need be. It is life unto life and death unto death, make your choice."

Go To **Proverbs chapter 3, verse 5 & 6.**

v.5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

v.6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Now that's simple and that's wise. Proverbs is a book of wisdom, if you want wisdom, if you want direction, want to know if what you are doing is right or wrong, read proverbs. Read it, read it, read it, read it, read it! I tell you what; you will start to see black and white while everybody else is in the gray. No gray in God's kingdom, I tell you that now. When we read in Revelations, God mentioned one thing in verse 17, "*He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.*" The wisdom and the knowledge and the revelation of who God is in your life, who He is upon the earth, who He is period! It's your manna! Our souls need to be fed, our spirit man needs to submit, and our walk with God cannot be compromised. But those who can overcome and continue to walk that path, shall receive hidden manna to eat and will always be filled. You shall always get fed. Your not going have to search for doctrine, your going to find that place that is going to feed, feed, feed, feed, feed you! Then you will know truly that God is feeding you.

"*And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.*" That's the foundation of your new path. That white stone that your name is upon is the start of that path you will follow. And upon that stone He calls you faithful, and upon it He calls your trustworthy, upon it He calls you everything He loves. Let that stone be the foundation that God is starting for you. Start a new, start a fresh. It's clean, its white, its precious, and its all you need! Because God gave it to you, and no one can take it away.

So let the word of God direct you, show you the way and the manner. God is preparing us, and I said this before, God is preparing this church. I cannot speak for any other church right now; I can only speak for what He has shone me for here. And He says, "Prepare the people, prepare the people, stripe them down, and empty their vessels. Prepare them for a new outpouring, a new anointing, and His visitation." Without that, without being naked before God, an empty vessel to receive, you will not be here when He comes. I tell you that right now. Because when He shows up in all His shekinah glory that's gonna be in this place when He chooses the time and the day soon, those who are not ready will not be here. Someone told me, "but God is merciful, and God will allow even if they're not ready." I said, "Well, we'll see what happens." The children of Israel were on the mountain because they wanted to hear God's voice, but they were not ready. So they stood on the mountain, felt the earthquake and they heard God's voice, guess what happened? The fear of God came upon them. Then they cried out to Moses, "You talk to God, we'll talk to you." I don't want to be that to you, I don't want to be Moses to you. I want you to talk to God for yourselves. That's your relationship with Him. Prepare yourself, prepare your vessels, renew your mind daily and ask for that, to renew your mind daily, make me sensitive to your touch Lord. Touch my lips and my tongue, that I speak your words when spoken to. To do what is good and right in your eyes Father, to bring pleasure to your heart and a smile to your face and a joy to your Spirit. These are the things that I pray. God has a sense of humor He made me! That's how I see it, and then He gave me a family, and something even funnier then that, He put me with this family. You got to look at it from my point of view; it is funny! God loves everyone, He give opportunity to ever single person. Today is your opportunity to evaluate your path, to see where God is taking you, and to follow it. Because a new name has been given to you to start a new foundation. So lay it down and walking the walk. Because your faithful, because your true, and He calls you His by His own name. So I give glory to Him for every person who sits here today, because those who did not come missed out.

AMEN