INTRODUCTION: Last Sunday morning I spoke to you about Balak's second visit to Balaam. You remember that God first told Balaam:

1. Thou shalt not go with them. Num. 22:12
   1. Thou shalt not curse the people...  
   2. For they are blessed. Num. 22:12

2. On the second visit by Balak's men God said to Balaam:
   1. If the Men come to call thee rise up and go with them. Num. 22:20
   2. Yet the work which I shall say unto thee,  

3. This morning we consider three lessons that arise in connection with Balaam. They are:

1. GOD'S DIRECTIVE WILL TO MAN. Num. 22:12
   1. Thou shalt not go with them.  
   2. Even though there was a famine in the land
      God said to Isaac,
      1. "Go not down into Egypt;...  
      2. Dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:  
      3. Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee." Gen. 26:1-3
   3. Balaam did not like God's directive will.  
      1. Many do not like God's directive will.

2. GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL TO MAN. Num. 22:20
   1. Man's desire to bend God's will and walk in his own way expressed in these words:
      1. "That I may know what the Lord will say unto me more. Num. 22:19
   2. Not satisfied with what God said, Balaam 
   3. God's permissive will to Balaam:
      1. "If the men come to call thee rise up and go with them..." Num. 22:20
      2. How startled Balaam must have been, not only to get another revelation from God, but a totally different direction.
      3. Balaam is a different man now. He had daringly neglected God's previous word.  
      4. He still suppresses the fact that he could curse God's people. HE ROSE UP EARLY IN MORNING. Num. 22:20,21

3. LET NOTHING, I PRAY THEE, HINDER THEE FROM COMING UNTO ME!
   1. Perhaps Balaam had no special desire to curse Israel, he would just as soon have blessed them for reward. "He ran greedily after reward." Jude 11
   2. Let nothing hinder thee; We consider some things that might hinder:
      1. It could not have been the price:
         1. I will promote to thee to great honor  
         2. I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me," Balak said Num. 22:17
      2. It could have been:
         1. His conscience:
            1. Away with childish scruples in a man's world. Conscience may be:
               like a railroad signal-lamp which serves in two ways:
               1. It may warn against danger.  
               2. It may direct in the path of safety if correctly used.
            2. Consideration of mercy to others.
               1. Why should he curse and if possible, ruin a nation that had done him no harm. Matt. 5:7  
               2. The will of God. Had been declared.  
                  1. Do not let that stand in your way or hinder you from coming.  
                  2. Just feel you are doing the right thing and right it will be.
            3. The Judgment:
               1. If some brother prophet had shown Balaam that evening his future career He might have shrunk back from the Balaam that was to be.  
               2. He had made riches and honor "the prize of his calling" overleaping every bearer that God had set to hinder Balaam from ruining himself. Gal. 6:7; James 1:13-16