God's Directive Will versus God's Permissive Will Johnson City, Texas Sunday Morning August 15, 1976

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

- 1. Thou shalt not go with them. Num. 22:12 1. Thous 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. That shalt thou do. Num. 22:20
- 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:
 - 2. "That I may know what the Lord will say unto me more. Num. 22:19
 - 1. 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 call curse God's people. HE ROSE UP EARLY IN MORNING. Num. 22:20,21

GOD'S DIRECTIVES WILL versus GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL Page two:

- 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 raildroad 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 3. The will of God. Had been declared. 12 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.
 - 4. 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

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