

Sermon ~ Sunday, June 7, 2020

Text: Numbers 22: 22-35

Title: "HE Changed my Heart!"

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I believe that **The HOLY SCRIPTURES** are *all plain* and **TRUE**, for example, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of **GOD**; being justified freely *by HIS GRACE* through the redemption that is *in CHRIST JESUS.*" (Romans 3: 23, 24) *Notice*, the underlined **TRUTH**, "For all have sinned, not, 'Ya'll have sinned' and come short of the glory of **GOD**..." The rest, declaring, for all, needing, '**A Changed Heart**'.

I searched for the *inspired motive*, the *life experience*, that caused, Sis. Tramaine Hawkins, to sing so convincingly,

"A Change, A Change has come over me!

HE changed my life and now I'm free. **HE** washed away all my sins, and **HE** made me whole, **HE** washed me white as snow.

HE changed my life complete, and now I sit, I sit at **HIS FEET**.

To do what *must* be done. I'll work and work, *until HE comes*.

A wonderful change has come over me! A wonderful change has come over me!

LORD YOU'VE changed—changed—**YOU'VE** changed my life complete!

Changed—and now I sit—changed I sit at my **SAVIOR' FEET**...

I'm so glad **YOU** changed me, to do—what *must* be done,

LORD, I'll work and work, *until YOU come*. I'm so glad **HE** changed me!

I've experienced this 'change'! It was not just a change of ways, wants, and wishes, but "**HE Changed my Heart!**"

JESUS, said of 'the human *heart* of man' ...

"For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all other sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander." (Matthew 15: 19) {We work hard to keep our *outward appearances* attractive, what is deep down in our heart (where others can't see) is more important to **GOD**. What are we like on the *inside*?}

The Prophet Jeremiah declared, "This is what **The LORD** says... the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? {But man, you don't know my heart! Yea, you don't neither!} **I, The LORD** searches the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings." (Jeremiah 17: 9, 10)

The Wise-man King Solomon, said "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." (Proverbs 4: 23) {Our heart dictates to a great extent how we live. We *must* concentrate on those desires that will keep us on the right paths. Well, I been there and done that, again and again, until...}

"HE Changed my Heart!"

I was like *Balaam* in this **SCRIPTURAL** text, (if you aren't in denial, you can attest with me) ... *Balaam*, a non-Israelite prophet— 'pro-fit'; among the people but yet *a foreign; a pagan* prophet who worshiped the 'gods' of the land; maintained an *outward* façade of *spirituality*, but possessed a *corrupt inward life*. *Balaam* possessed *mixed motives*— *obedience* and *disobedience*; he realized *The Awesome Power of Israel's GOD*, yet his heart was occupied with *the wealth he could gain* in the City of Moab.

Balaam was a 'avarice': extremely *greedy for wealth and material gain*. He advised the King Balak of Moab, who, having seen the multitudes of Israel, camped ominously: that is, he felt, that something bad was going to happen. So, he sent for *Balaam*—who the people believed that he could 'bless' or 'curse' someone. After all, *he* was a *pagan prophet* and worshiper of the 'gods' of the land. His name, *Balaam*, meant 'god of agriculture—guard of the cornfields.' If only *Balaam* had abided by his first answer to Balak's request— 'Though Balak were 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.' (Numbers 22: 18) Had *Balaam* done what *he* said, *he* would have been saved from the *disgrace and suffering* ensued.

- In his heart, *Balaam* seemed to think it was possible to **alter GOD'S MIND...**

GOD was so angry with *Balaam* that **HE** stationed **HIMSELF** as **The Angel of The LORD** in a narrow spot across the middle of the Moab road. This **Angel WHO** took **HIS** stand in the way of *Balaam* with **HIS** drawn sword is the same **ONE WHO** appeared to Moses 'in the burning bush' (Exodus 3: 2); and 'to Hagar in the wilderness' (Genesis 18: 7; 22: 11, 15); each an *manifestation of GOD HIMSELF*—*a preincarnate appearance of JESUS, The MESSIAH* (Joshua 5: 13-15) ...

"So, *Balaam* rose up in the morning, saddle his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab." (Numbers 22: 21) "**The Angel of The LORD** stood in the way for an *adversary* against *him*..." (Numbers 22: 22) NOT as a *created Angel*, but **The Eternal ONE; The ONE WHO** stood in **The Presence of The LORD JEHOVAH** (Numbers 22: 35) ... {**HE** guided Israel in the wilderness, protected them; guarded them; an *Adversary* to their *adversaries*... **The Angel of Mercy, WHO** would have restrained *Balaam* from *sinning*, that **HE** might not *sin* and *perish*, had *Balaam* listen to **HIM**...} Numbers 22: 22, "...riding on his donkey ..."? [The donkey represents, "**The AUTHORITY of GOD'S WORD.**" Without **The Authority** and support of **GOD'S WORD**, it does not matter, no King can Rule, no prophet shall *pro-fit*, and *The Bible* is just another *Book*.] **{Change my Heart!** David knew he was (past tense) a *sinner*, so he plead, 'With my whole heart I have sought **YOU, O GOD**, let me not wander from **YOUR commandments! YOUR WORD** I have hidden in my heart, that I might not *sin* against **YOU.**' (Psalm 119: 10, 11) The 'donkey' proves to be *wiser* than *Balaam*.

- *Who* and *what* we are, will somehow come to the surface...?
- *Motives* are just as important as *actions*...
- One's *treasure* is where one's *heart* is...

Numbers 22: 23, "...the donkey saw **The Angel**..." *Balaam* did not... '**The Angel** stood in the very pathway on which the donkey was carrying *Balaam*—his sword drawn—threatening to destroy *Balaam*... *Death*, 'the wages of *sin*'... *Death* by the sword, *Balaam* did receive (Numbers 31: 8).

The donkey turned aside out of the way, and went into *the field (corn-field)*—to save its Master and itself... “Balaam struck the donkey...” to bring it into the *common* road again.

Numbers 22: 24a, “But **The Angel of The LORD** stood in a *narrow path* between the vineyards...” {a *narrow pathway* between them; a *narrow footpath* where *foxes ran* and had their holes... here **The Angel** placed **HIMSELF**... so that there was *no* passage for *Balaam* and his donkey—not without great difficulty and danger. A *wall* being on this side, and a *wall* on that side... therefore there was *no* going out into the field, as before, to avoid the difficulty and danger.

Numbers 22: 25, “When the donkey saw **The Angel**... -- in the same position as before... it thrust itself against the *wall*...” That is, as close as it could, in order to get around or get by **The Angel**... “...and *crushed Balaam’s* foot... and he *struck* the donkey again.”

Numbers 22: 26, “And **The Angel of The LORD** went further...” *Narrower* than the other, at a farther distance... where was *no* way to turn, either to the right-hand or to the left.”

So strait and closed a place, that **The Angel** filled the whole breadth of it, that there was *no* passing **HIM**; *no* getting forward *nor* backward... not forward because **The Angel** filled up the way; *no* slipping by; *nor* backward, because it could *not* turn itself to the right or the left.

Numbers 22: 27, “As the donkey saw **The Angel**...” the 3rd time... seemed not always in sight... sometimes here, other times not there... moved from place to place and at every new place where **The Angel** stood, the donkey saw **HIM**; though *Balaam* did not... ‘the donkey fell down under *Balaam*...’ on its *knees* on the ground. *Balaam’s* anger was *kindled*, in *fume* and *fury*, *enraged*. *Balaam* smote the donkey with his staff.

Numbers 22: 28, “And The LORD opened the mouth of the donkey...” {very extraordinary and miraculous affair; effected by *The Supernatural Power of GOD’S WORD*, that a creature *without* organs to speak, spoke so plainly and distinct. “What have I done to thee?”

Numbers 22: 29, “*Balaam* said, ... because thou hast *mocked* me...”: *defiled* me—by running him against the *wall*; by *lying* in the *dust/dirt*, *exposing Balaam* to be *mocked* and *laughed at* by two princes *with* him.} “I would there were a sword in my hand, for now would I kill thee...”

So *enraged in his heart*, *Balaam* was not at all *frightened* and *amazed* to hear the donkey speak!

Number 22: 30, “And the donkey said unto *Balaam*...” ‘Ever since thou *wast*...’ ‘Ever since you could *ride*...’ ‘The first time you rode upon *my back*...’ ‘I always was *careful in carrying you*—you never *fell* because of me...’ ‘Was I not a *sure-foot* creature; *careful, safely carrying you*.’

“And *Balaam* said *nay*—*NO*.’ {his *conscience* had not accused him that he was wrong in coming with the princes}

Numbers 22: 31, “Then **The LORD** opened the eyes of *Balaam*... and he saw **The Angel of The LORD**... and *Balaam* bowed down his head and fell flat on his face...”

Numbers 22: 32, “... because *thy way* is perverse before me...” {the journey *he* took was against **GOD’S Will**; his intention was to *serve* Balak and *curse* Israel; the way of his heart was bad; **The LORD** *knew it*... his heart was not directed by **GOD’S Will**... He was trying to *serve* two Masters—to *speak* as **GOD** bade *him*, but to *please* Balak and *pocket his* gold.

How many agencies **GOD** uses to arrest our evil courses! **“HE Changed my Heart!”**

Give me a *clean heart*, so I may serve **THEE**. **LORD** fix my heart—
So that I, may me used by **THEE**. For I’m not worthy, of all these blessings.

Give me a *clean heart*, and I’ll follow **THEE**.