

Letter to church at Pergamum

Numbers 22-25:9/Rev. 2:12-17

Materials: map of ancient Israel
newspaper of predictions (?)

As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know- Although the church of Pergamum had held fast to Jesus in a time of open persecution and death, Jesus told them to repent of the teaching of the Nicolaitans who were within the church and leading believers into immorality and idolatry in the same way that Balaam counseled Balak to lead the Israelites into immorality and idolatry, and thus ruin their relationship with God.

BT-Believers in Jesus must not only withstand the external pressure to deny Him, but must also avoid any compromise with immorality and idolatry.

Rz-My students must not only withstand the external pressure to deny Jesus, they must also avoid any compromise with immorality and idolatry.

Rd- by repenting of any compromise with immorality and idolatry.

I. Balaam Counsels Balak

A. Balak scared and wants to destroy

B. Calls on Balaam

1. A Professional sorcerer
2. From Mesopotamia
3. Offers a reward

C. God talks to Balaam

1. Do not go with them
2. You shall not curse the people
3. They are blessed

D. Balaam responds to messengers

"The Lord has refused to let me come with you."

E. Balaam returns with second delegation

1. "I can make you VERY rich."
2. I can't do anything contrary to God.
3. Let me check again.

4. God tells him he can go.

5. Balaam goes the next morning.

F. God sends the Angel to Kill Balaam

1. Angry that Balaam would go.
2. Angel stands with sword.
3. Donkey goes astray three times/sits down.
4. Donkey talks to Balaam with rebuke.

5. God shows Balaam the angel with the sword.

G. Balaam speaks only what God tells him

1. He "repents" and offers not to go.
2. God tells him to go on but only speak what

He tells him.

3. Balak impatient with the delays.

Show paper with 'prophecies'

What does Balaam NOT tell them?

Why is he checking again? What does Balaam want? (What is in his heart? What is his motive?)

Why is God angry when He has told Balaam he can go?

Balaam is the professional sorcerer and the donkey is the one who can see the vision. Why can't B. See the vision? What is God trying to tell him?

Why is God telling him to go when he said that his way was contrary?

4. Balaam blesses Israel three times because

he had to. (23:12; 23:26; 24:12-14)

H. Balaam advises to involve the people in immorality and idolatry

I. God Kills 24,000 Israelites because of their compromise.

II. Jesus' Words to the church of Pergamum

A. Praise for holding fast

1. Even though they lived where Satan had his throne.

2. Even during the days when Antipas was martyred.

B. Rebuke for tolerating the teaching of Balaam.

1. Eating food sacrificed to idols.

2. Committing idolatry

Do you sense Balaam's frustration? Why is he so frustrated? What does he want?

Balaam knows he will never get them in direct battle. Has God told Balaam to say this?

What were the two things they were doing? Why were the Israelites participating? "If you can't beat them, join them."

Physical site+Roman seat of authority.

What two things were they doing? Why were they doing this? I thought Paul said that it didn't matter if they ate meat sacrificed to idols.

"If you can't beat them, join them."

Conclusion: Hebrews 4:12. What was the sword judging? Thoughts and intents of the heart. For Balaam it was clear, "I want to use God to get what I want. I'm not interested in God using me to get what he wants." His teaching was clear, "If you can get God's people to compromise, God will turn against them." The Nicolaitans were teaching, "If you compromise, you can ask Jesus to forgive you and you will be okay." Is that true?