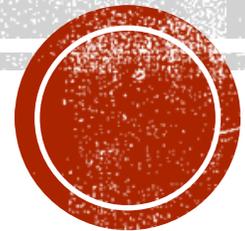


WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Matt Whitaker

Text: Numbers 22



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Numbers 22:1 Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

² And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

³ And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

⁴ And Moab said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.” So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time,



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

⁵ sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

⁶ Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**1. God has Given You
Enough to Know What's
Right**

(vv7-12; Romans 2:15)



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Numb. 22:7 So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**⁸ And he said to them,
“Lodge here tonight, and I
will bring back word to you,
as the LORD speaks to me.”
So the princes of Moab
stayed with Balaam.**



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

9 And God came to Balaam and said, “Who are these men with you?”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

10 And Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying,



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

11 ‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.’”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**12 God said to Balaam,
“You shall not go with
them. You shall not
curse the people,
for they are blessed.”**



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Romans 2:15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

2. God Wants You to

Want to Do Right

(vv13-19; 1 Cor. 15:56,

Psalm 1:1-3)



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Numb. 22:13 So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go to your own land, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you."



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

14 So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

15 Once again Balak sent princes, more in number and more honorable than these.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

16 And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: ‘Let nothing hinder you from coming to me,



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**17 for I will surely do
you great honor, and
whatever you say to me
I will do. Come, curse
this people for me.'”**



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

¹⁸ But Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the LORD my God to do less or more.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

19 So you, too, please stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

1 Cor. 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**2 but his delight is in
the law of the LORD, and
on his law he meditates
day and night.**



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

**3. God Will Actively
Oppose You While
Letting You Do What
You Want (*vv20-34*)**



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

Numb. 22:20 And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

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



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

22 But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

²³ And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

²⁵ And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

26 Then the angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff.



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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?”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

29 And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

30 And the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?” And he said, “No.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

3¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

³² And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me.



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

33 The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live.”



WHY SO MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE

³⁴ Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back.”



GOD **NEVER** PROMISES TO REMOVE
US FROM OUR *struggles*.
HE DOES PROMISE HOWEVER TO
CHANGE THE WAY WE *look* AT THEM

Max Lucado

