

Balaam Talks With His Donkey

Balaam Talks With His Donkey	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture	1
Players	2
Special Props	2
Script – Balaam Talks With His Donkey	3
Supplemental Information.....	6
Reflection Questions	6
Extra Time.....	6

Scene Summary

This exciting play from the scripture describes a talking donkey. The scenes include Balaam hearing the voice of God...the first part of the journey to Moab...the angel opposes them and the donkey sees the angel and saves Balaam three times...Balaam beats the donkey and that Lord open's the donkey's mouth...Balaam sees the angel and listens to God's word.

Scripture

(Numbers 22: 20-34) That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you." 21 Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. 22 But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road. 24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. 25 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again. 26 Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. 27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. 28 Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" 29 Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now." 30 The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?" "No," he said. 31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown. 32 The angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. 33 The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have

killed you by now, but I would have spared her." 34 Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back." The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Players

- **Narrator** – The play’s “catechist” or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **God** – Powerful offstage voice.
- **Balaam** - A prophet of the Lord
- **Angel** - A messenger from the Lord
- **Donkey** - A person walking on all fours (not to be ridden)
- **Servants** - several, these are non-speaking parts

Special Props

- Note: the role of the donkey is key to the play. The person playing the donkey must walk on all fours, however just accompany Balaam, walking along side, **BALAAM IS NOT TO RIDE ON THE DONKEY'S BACK.**
- A small blanket to put on the donkey's back.
- Blankets or mats to put on the floor for sleeping.
- A sword for the Angel
- A staff for Balaam
- Normal clothing and headdress from the prop box.

Script – Balaam Talks With His Donkey

Opening Scene: Balaam is lying down on his mat, asleep, center stage. The two other servants are lying down nearby. Note: the servants follow Balaam wherever he goes, they are on this journey together.

Narrator: [comes to stage right and gestures towards Balaam] This is Balaam. He is a prophet. [gestures to the servants] These men have come from the king of Moab. They want Balaam to curse the people of Israel. [pause] It is nighttime. God speaks to Balaam.

God: Balaam! Balaam!

Balaam: [only Balaam wakes and sits up]

God: These men have come to you, go with them, but do only what I tell you.

Balaam: [nods his head, stretches, gets up, wakens the other servants and rolls up his bed mat] Let's go to the king of Moab. I will get my donkey ready.

Balaam: [takes the bed and goes offstage, then return with the donkey and a small blanket. Put the blanket on the donkey's back]

Donkey: [walks along side of Balaam]

Balaam: [walks to the servants] OK, I'll lead the way. [all slowly walk offstage]

Scene change: The angel comes out to center stage with sword drawn. As the narrator speaks, they walk back onstage, not looking at the angel. Only the donkey looks at the angel and becomes afraid. The angel does not change position.

Narrator: They walk for a while, but then the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him.

Donkey: [pushes Balaam towards the back of the stage, away from the angel]

Balaam: [angry, to the donkey, slapping towards the donkey's back] Not that way! Where are you going? Get back on the road!

Donkey: [goes around the angel and they continue offstage]

Angel: [as the narrator speaks, slowly go to the back of center stage]

Narrator: The journey continued, but they came to a narrow place, with two walls on each side.

Balaam: [from stage right, walks slowly toward the back of the stage, not looking at the angel]

Donkey: [looks at the angel and becomes worried, then pushes Balaam towards the rear of the stage, away from the angel]

Balaam: [stops, cries out in pain, grabs his leg] Oh, my leg. [Begins pretend hitting the donkey again] Why did you push me into the wall? My leg hurts! Get back on the road.

Angel: [moves back, about four or five steps then waits with drawn sword, looking very mean]

Balaam: [rubs his leg then slowly begins walking again as the narrator speaks]

Narrator: This time they came to a place that was very narrow. They could not turn, to the right or to the left.

Donkey: [looks at the angel and becomes worried then lays down]

Balaam: [not looking at the angel; begins pretend hitting the donkey, very angry] What is wrong with you! Get up! Let's go!

Narrator: Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth.

Donkey: [using a strange voice, squeaky] What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?

Balaam: [still angry] You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.

Donkey: [using a strange voice, squeaky] Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?

Balaam: [thoughtfully] No

Narrator: Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn.

Balaam: [suddenly sees the angel and is also afraid, then he bowed low and fell facedown.]

Angel: [to Balaam] Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her.

Balaam: [to the angel] I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back.

Angel: Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you.

Balaam: [bows very low, then with the others walk slowly offstage]

Narrator: So Balaam continued on his journey.

The End.

Supplemental Information

Balaam was influenced by the repeated requests from Balak, the king of Moab. The king of Moab was afraid of the people of Israel and with good reason. They had defeated every enemy that had opposed them. The king of Moab realized that attacking the people of Israel would be his destruction, so he seeks a spiritual solution to this problem. Balak decided to pay Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam asks the Lord and the reply in Numbers 22:12, is do not go, because the people of Israel are blessed. Balaam goes and there is trouble. The angel calls his decision to go "reckless" because the Lord had already told Balaam not to go in the first place.

“They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey--a beast without speech--who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.” (2 Peter 2:15-16)

Even though Balaam could not curse the people of Israel, there was another great sin that he introduced, the sin of assimilation. In Revelation, Christ says to the church in Pergamum, “I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.” (Revelation 2:14) The word of Christ to the church is the same to us today: “Repent.”

Reflection Questions

- Who was Balaam?
- Who were the servants with him?
- Where were they going?
- What did the servants want Balaam to do?
- Why did the donkey turn aside and stop?
- How many times did the angel stop the donkey?
- Why was the angel angry with Balaam?

Extra Time

Talk to your students about their pets. Listen carefully to their stories. Explain how all pets and animals are precious life and a gift from God. We should take care of the animals and not hurt or abuse them. Ask your students how they care for their pets; who gives them food and water. Ask what their pets would say if they could talk.

Remind your students that King David, when he was a small boy, took care of his father's sheep. David wrote a song (Psalm 23) because he knew that God was our Shepherd and took care of us. Read Psalm 23 to your students and talk about the way God takes care of us.

Always point your students to Christ. Help them memorize "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes on him shall not perish but have eternal life."
(John 3:16)