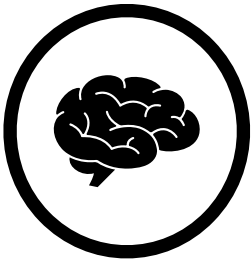


# SERMON NOTES

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26th March 2023 | God of Blessing | Numbers 23: 1 - 26

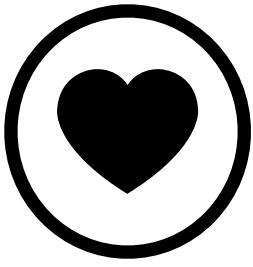
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## Exploring the text

Questions for reflection:

1. Why did Balak want Balaam to curse Israel?
2. Why do you think God was angry with Balaam after he had told the Balaam to go with the officials (compare 22:20 and 22:22)?
3. Why do you think Balak asked Balaam a second and third time to curse Israel, when he was told that Balaam could only speak God's word?
4. What does 23:19 mean? How would you reconcile this Exodus 32:7-14?
5. How would you describe God's blessing to a friend who is not yet a Christian?
6. "Despite the pagan and unsavoury actions of this ungodly man, the Lord deigns to meet with him and to speak through him. This is utterly remarkable. We often say that God will never use an unclean vessel. This is not quite accurate. God may use whatever vessel he wishes; the issue concerns what happens to an unclean vessel when God has finished using it for his purposes. It appears that such vessels are tossed aside, dashed on the road." Discuss this quote and compare Numbers 31:8, 16).



## Connecting our hearts

Questions for reflection:

1. What are the things that cause stress in your life at the moment?
2. Stu made the point that the characters in the story (Balak, Balaam, the donkey, Israel) were all experiencing stress in different ways. What are some of the pressures they were encountering?
3. Balaam's oracles would have reminded the people of God they were blessed. In which way?
4. How does remembering God's blessing in our lives sustain us in pressured times?
5. Stu mentioned that remembering the blessing of God leads to two places - gratitude and generosity. Would you agree / disagree?
6. What are the spiritual blessings that Paul refers to in Ephesians 1:3?



## Living it out

Questions for reflection:

1. Spend time with the Lord in silence and reflect on His goodness to you. Write down the blessings He has given and give thanks.
2. How can you generously share the blessing God has poured into your life?
3. Is there someone on your frontline you can share God's blessing with?

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Use the below space to write you own prayer of response