

## 2. Apostasy (25)

- i. He started to go home, but did he go home?
  - a. No.
  - b. He went to the Midianites.
  - c. Remember that the Moabites and Midianites are allies.
  - d. Balaam is greedy and doesn't want to go back empty handed.
- ii. Now he had to speak what the Lord told him to speak, but he says, "I have to figure out a way to get some of this money."
  - a. So he goes to the Midianites and he gives counsel to them and has a counseling fee and its a hefty one.
  - b. He counsels the Midianites, "I can tell you how to weaken the Israelites. You take your women and use them to entice the Israelites <sup>to</sup> idolatry. If they commit idolatry, the Lord will judge them and they'll be weakened."
  - c. How do we know that counsel was given them? See 31:16.
- iii. The Midianites informed Balak of what Balaam had said and Balak told his women to go and befriend the Israelite people.
  - a. ~~They~~ <sup>They the Israelites</sup> were just trying to be friendly, but they thought they could go beyond that and engage in sexual morality.
  - b. But what was the motive that those women had in their minds that they wouldn't tell the people of Israel? To get the people of Israel to commit idolatry.
  - c. Having befriended the men of Israel, they women said, "Why don't you come over to our sacrifices. You can burn incense. We worship Baal. And that won't hurt anything."
- iv. The Israelites go to those sacrifices and participate.
  - a. They eat in honor of Baal.
  - b. They bow down to Baal.
  - c. They commit sexual immorality because that was their way of honoring Baal.
- v. When the Lord saw that, he sent a plague and the people started to die.
- vi. The Lord tells Moses, "You gather the leaders of the people together and tell them to take everyone who has committed idolatry and put that person to death. You put that person's body out so that everyone can see it so that they'll know what happens to people who do this."
  - a. That meant that they were either impaled on a stake and hung on a cross.
- vii. Moses gathered the leaders of the people together in the tabernacle and gave them this message.