

Part 2- Jude 11-13

## **have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit**

What do we know about Balaam?

Genesis 22-25

Balak, the king of Moab, was afraid of the Israelites. So he wanted to hire Balaam to curse them.

Balak sends his men to hire Balaam. God tells Balaam no, that he must not curse them. So he doesn't. But he shows signs that he really wants that money. He never does actually curse them. But we find out later in the bible that Balaam did something equally evil. He told Balak how to destroy the Israelites. And Balak sent the Israelites women. These were women that the Israelites were not supposed to marry. Balaam knew that if these women were successful in seducing the Israelite men they would displease God. So suggesting this was a betrayal of the Israelites. And by betraying the Israelites he showed his true colors. Pleasing God was never Balaam's motive. He was prophet with a **profit motive**.

Jude is giving us the inside scoop on these false teachers. They run greedily- or pouring out like a gusher, in this motive to use people to get hire or ultimately, money. The brute beastly mindset looks out for itself again. These people are hirelings. But it is even worse than that. Hirelings at least look after the sheep when it is convenient. Even when times are **good** these teachers aren't taking care of the sheep. They are looking for ways to feed on the sheep. They look at their sheep like cash cows. And while they might go through the motions that look like faithfulness, the motive of greed is continually driving them.

### **and perished in the rebellion of Korah.**

It is important that we understand what Korah did. Because it might not strike us as being a big deal. But it was such a big deal to God that He had the earth swallow Korah and all his friends up.

**Korah-** Numbers 16:

Now Korah and a bunch of men rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. <sup>3</sup>They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "**You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and**

**the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"**

Korah is accusing Moses of appointing himself. He is ascribing something that God had done to a man.

**<sup>4</sup>So when Moses heard *it*, he fell on his face; <sup>5</sup>and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who *is* His and *who is* holy, and will cause *him* to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. <sup>6</sup>Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company; <sup>7</sup>put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be *that* the man whom the LORD chooses *is* the holy one. *You take* too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"**

**<sup>8</sup>Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: <sup>9</sup>*Is it* a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; <sup>10</sup>and that He has brought you near *to Himself*, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also? <sup>11</sup>Therefore you and all your company *are* gathered together against the LORD. And what *is* Aaron that you complain against him?"**

**<sup>12</sup>And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up! <sup>13</sup>*Is it* a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us? <sup>14</sup>Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"**

**<sup>15</sup>Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them."**

**<sup>16</sup>And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD—you and they, as well as Aaron. <sup>17</sup>Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two**

hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each *with* his censer." <sup>18</sup>So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron. <sup>19</sup>And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

<sup>20</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>21</sup>"Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

<sup>22</sup>Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

<sup>23</sup>So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup>"Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'"

<sup>25</sup>Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. <sup>26</sup>And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." <sup>27</sup>So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

<sup>28</sup>And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for *I have not done them* of my own will. <sup>29</sup>If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, *then* the LORD has not sent me. <sup>30</sup>But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

<sup>31</sup>Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, <sup>32</sup>and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all *their* goods. <sup>33</sup>So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. <sup>34</sup>Then all Israel who *were*

**around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up *also!*"**

**<sup>35</sup>And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.**

Jude is saying that the false teachers died in Korah's rebellion. Essentially they side with Korah's thinking. And what did Korah do? He blasphemed true authority. He sought to replace it with his own thinking, his own sense of self importance. He sought to eliminate the importance of God's direction and God's leaders and God's choosing and replace it with self rule. He was presuming to lead without God's authority. He was applying what he felt and sensed and wanted into his situation. And he was working out an advantage for himself that these Israelites presented to him in his mind. He was working an angle to get what he wanted. He would naturally frame it in ways to make it look like he is protecting the people from the influence of Moses, but the truth is that Korah had rejected the Lord. That was the problem.

Consider this closely. Do you ever speak against the authority God has placed you under? Do you ever say, "I have as much right to lead as this person does?" Do you say, "I want to displace this authority myself and make these decisions for myself?" Be very very careful. That is all that Korah thought. He rejected God's choices of authority and thought to rise to those positions himself. What have you said about the authority that God has placed you under? Consider that very very carefully.

**Korah says "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"**

He has a religion of human potential, of human reasoning. He projects **his** evil on the **true** leadership that God has appointed and says **you put yourself there** and you have no more right to the position than I do. **And I want it.**

False teachers are always like this. They question true authority and they act like God's chosen leaders are no better suited to lead than anyone else. They always have an undermining influence. And they usually don't go toe to toe with the leaders until they have gained for themselves a following. Korah had 250 leaders under his belt. **Then** they attacked the leadership and in so doing they rejected true authority and set up their own. And all those who follow their leading suffer from their error.

Blind submission to authority is not a good thing, but **informed** submission to the Word of God is **always** a good thing. If the rulers **appeal to the Word of God** and that is what they

quote when they lay out the reasons for their decisions, if they are competent with the use of God's word, they are representing **true authority**. Be careful of anything that you do that undermines the authority behind true ministry. When we gripe about style or peripheral things we are in dangerous territory. We need to ask are they teaching the truth and are they living according to the truth they believe. A ministry is only as authoritative its dependence upon God's word. Just because some call themselves preachers doesn't mean they have some kind of untouchable anointing. But if they are accurately quoting God's Word, we had better pay careful attention and not place ourselves in the position of Korah saying I have every bit as much authority to lead as they do. It got Korah killed.

**12These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;**

**spots in your love feasts-** The word for spots is a word that means a rock in the sea, ledge, reef, of men who by their conduct damage others morally. So basically, when you come together to share the Lord's Supper these people represent the devil's interest. They are like a rock in the water just waiting for an unsuspecting boat to come by so it can sink it. They won't wear a sign that says I am only here to use you, I'm only here to sink you, but that is the truth of it.

**while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves.** – I hope we find it hard to imagine having such a mindset in the middle of the fellowship. A person with that motive should be scared stiff. To threaten the thing that is most precious to the heart of God and to have no fear. That is the height of audacity. Paul in his treatment of the Lord's supper makes it very clear that sin against fellow believers is very very dangerous. Communion should not be taken without introspection of our attitude and treatment of fellow believers. But these false teachers are nonchalant.

And while these very feasts are a tribute to Christ and his body, these same people are content to be only looking out for themselves. That is frightening. We exist to look out for each

other. Christ commanded that we love one another. And against love there isn't any command. Yet here they are, like brute beasts, looking out after number one.

**They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;**

You know what that makes them? Useless. Have you ever been in a long dry spell and the clouds form? Your heart begins to hope. You long for what the clouds will provide. But then they blow over and they are just a disappointment. That's what false teachers are to true believers. They promise spiritual fellowship but somehow they can never deliver. They promise spiritual nurturing, but they never deliver.

How about fruit trees. I like to walk in the woods in October. I love going to places where I know that apple trees grow. It is like a ritual to me to pick a couple and eat them. But what a disappointment when I walk a half a mile to get to the trees and there is no fruit. When I find that I am too late and the apples are already gone. That's what these false teachers are. The promise of fruit without the provision of fruit. They do no one any good. And they are proven to be dead- dead. They are past fruit bearing and something has pulled them up with their roots exposed.

**13raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

**raging waves of the sea foaming up their own shame**

Have you ever watched the waves in a storm? They crash with great force on the beach but with no apparent aim. They just keep beating themselves on the beach, accomplishing nothing. They have tremendous fury but no direction. They just beat themselves up futilely on the sand. And in the waves you see everything they have picked up along the way. The foam arises from their powerful motion.

That's how the false teachers are. They reveal their shame in their passions. Their pursuits will repeat over and over again and all it will show is what they are made of. It will show their sin and their evil motives and their rebellion against God to those who look through the eyeglasses of scripture.

## **wandering stars**

Wandering stars are not helpful at all. You cannot chart a course by them. You cannot get a bearing by them. You cannot know where you are in the darkness.

In contrast to this, Christ is our bright and morning star. Christ gives us direction. These false teachers do not.

## **for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

It is helpful to know where the false teachers are headed.

Sometimes this is very hard to accept. If you have a relationship with this person they may appear very sincere. They may appear to know scripture and care about it deeply. But we must believe that God is true and every man is a liar. When a person has all the trappings of a false teacher according to scripture, he is destined for hell. He is destined for the blackness of darkness forever. He is heading toward eternal judgment.

With that being true, we do well to separate from these people as quickly as possible.