

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## A TALKING DONKEY

By Jeff Sweeten

One might expect this article to be directed toward our venerable political machine, by virtue of the fact that most folks have such a deep and abiding reverence for our governmental leaders (this is obviously sarcasm). Or, it might be the case that, since a preacher has authored this article, one might expect some colorful diatribe of mockery concerning the uselessness of many a pompous religious leader, in spite of his/her overbearing self-importance (this is not sarcasm). I will, however, spare you as there is not enough room for the full attention needed to explicate such truths in so short an article. This offering will focus on an Old Testament incident wherein a real donkey actually spoke.

As a concerned King Balak panicked over an Israelite invasion as they exited Egypt, his solution was to pronounce curses upon God's people. Enter Balaam, who decided to follow the money (a problem that still haunts many folks to this day). After a negative consultation with God, Balaam saddled up his donkey to make the journey anyway, with no concern for God's condemnation, hearing only the "ka-ching" of change jingling in his pocket. However, along the journey, his faithful donkey began to balk, veering off the road, careening into a rock wall and, finally, slumping to her knees. Looking up, the abused donkey asked, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" (Numbers 22:28). When Balaam opened his eyes, there stood an angel with sword, ready to part him asunder like the Red Sea.

There seems to be an irony in the fact that truth often comes from the most unlikely and unexpected sources. What many miss, and why it is not so much an irony as an inconvenience, is that the source of the truth is not what matters so much as does the Source of the truth. By that I mean, God uses everything in His arsenal to shoot down human stupidity (ignorance and rebellion). Evidently, God won't fix stupidity as He has given us free moral agency. Balaam chose poorly and years later, in a random battle against the kings of Midian, we read that "Balaam... they also killed with the sword" (Numbers 31:8).

The punch-line is obvious: it's all about choices and, even if it is a talking donkey that tells you the truth, it is wise to accept the truth.

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**