



## How to Stay Buried in the Minors

2 Peter 2:15-16 (NIV)

*They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer, who loved the wages of wickedness. <sup>16</sup> But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*

Numbers 22:7-20 (NIV)

*The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said. <sup>8</sup> "Spend the night here," Balaam said to them, "and I will report back to you with the answer the Lord gives me." So the Moabite officials stayed with him. <sup>9</sup> God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?" <sup>10</sup> Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: <sup>11</sup> 'A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.'" <sup>12</sup> But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed." <sup>13</sup> The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's officials, "Go back to your own country, for the Lord has refused to let me go with you." <sup>14</sup> So the Moabite officials returned to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us." <sup>15</sup> Then Balak sent other officials, more numerous and more distinguished than the first. <sup>16</sup> They came to Balaam and said: "This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me, <sup>17</sup> because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me." <sup>18</sup> But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God. <sup>19</sup> Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the Lord will tell me." <sup>20</sup> 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."*

Numbers 25:1-5 (NIV)

*While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, <sup>2</sup> who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them. <sup>4</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord's fierce anger may turn away from Israel." <sup>5</sup> So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."*

Revelation 2:14 (NIV)

*Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.*

Numbers 31:8 (NIV)

*Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.*

How to stay buried in the minor leagues:

1. Balaam kept asking for a sign!

- Minor leaguers pray when they are to obey.
- We go the way of Balaam when we fail to believe God the first time.

2. Balaam kept looking for a loophole.

- "Technical obedience" will always leave you buried in the minors.

3. Balaam refused to be broken. (Matthew 21:42-44)

4. Balaam confused God's presence with his approval.

Romans 2:4 (ESV)

*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*