

# “Awareness Deficiency Disorder”

Jeff Devoll

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Exodus 21-40; Proverbs 1-8

*“God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.” 2 Peter 1:3*

Numbers 22:21-35

21 So the next morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and started off with the Moabite officials. 22 But God was angry that Balaam was going, so he sent the angel of the LORD to stand in the road to block his way. As Balaam and two servants were riding along, 23 Balaam’s donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. The donkey bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat it and turned it back onto the road. 24 Then the angel of the LORD stood at a place where the road narrowed between two vineyard walls. 25 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it tried to squeeze by and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall. So Balaam beat the donkey again.

26 Then the angel of the LORD moved farther down the road and stood in a place too narrow for the donkey to get by at all. 27 This time when the donkey saw the angel, it lay down under Balaam. In a fit of rage Balaam beat the animal again with his staff.

28 Then the LORD gave the donkey the ability to speak. “What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?” it asked Balaam.

29 “You have made me look like a fool!” Balaam shouted. “If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!”

30 “But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life,” the donkey answered. “Have I ever done anything like this before?”

“No,” Balaam admitted.

31 Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him.

32 “Why did you beat your donkey those three times?” the angel of the LORD demanded. “Look, I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me.

33 Three times the donkey saw me and shied away; otherwise, I would certainly have killed you by now and spared the donkey.”

34 Then Balaam confessed to the angel of the LORD, “I have sinned. I didn’t realize you were standing in the road to block my way. I will return home if you are against my going.”

35 But the angel of the LORD told Balaam, “Go with these men, but say only what I tell you to say.”

## I. Four strange things in the story of Balaam

1. Balaam is a Psychic, a Sorcerer, yet he does hear from God
2. Balaam's Donkey can Talk
3. Balaam isn't surprised by this
4. The Donkey can see the angel while Balaam can't

## II. You must overcome your **Awareness Deficiency disorder**.

*"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* 2 Corinthians 4:18

1. Being able to **see** what God is up to is a recurring theme in the bible.
  - Elijah can see the armies of heaven all around him his servant can't see
  - Ezekiel can see dry bones come to life
  - Jesus is constantly trying to get his disciples to see the real truth.

*"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth."* John 16:12-13a

## III. How Do we overcome our **Awareness Deficiency Disorder**?

1. Don't limit God
2. Don't just do what you've seen
3. Expect a beating
4. Don't disqualify yourself

*"To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."* 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 NIV