



Project: Sermon Resource for Shluchim
Distribution Date: July 8, 2008 / ה' תמוז תשס"ח
Parsha: Balak – בלק

בייה

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1. People can be similar or as different as fire and water. In Balak, we read about Moshe and Bilam, who are alike and also as different as fire and water.



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2. Bilam was a great prophet who desired to curse the Jews. He received messengers from Balak, king of Moav, telling him to curse the Jews. The first time, G-d told him he should not go as he would not succeed at cursing them. The second time G-d allows him to go but warns him that he will only be able to do what G-d wants him to do.

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3. Many obstacles are not enough to keep Bilam from reaching his goal, but not only can he not the curse the Jews, he ends up giving them a beautiful blessing.



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4. After Moshe's passing, the Torah tells that there never again was a prophet of Moshe's caliber. Except Bilam! What was there about Bilam? And how could a prophet of Bilam's standing want to go against G-d's will?



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5. Both Bilam and Moshe have stories where they meet up with an angel wishing to kill them while they are riding donkeys. But Bilam ignores the warning while Moshe is saved by his wife.



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6. The difference between a married person and a single person is that marriage brings with it responsibilities and obligations. A single person in a relationship uses the relationship for his own benefit. There is no fear of doing wrong; there is only love and lack of obligation.

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7. Moshe was married to G-d and therefore was afraid to mess up and so he did G-d's will. Bilam was not married, just in a relationship and so he felt he had no obligations and nothing to make him do G-d's will. He used the relationship for his own good and tried to make G-d do things his way.



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8. Marriage teaches us to do what's right and not what we want.