



**DON'T KICK YOUR DONKEY**  
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*“Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the prices of Moab. But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the road into a field, Balaam beat her to get her back on the road. Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against it. So he beat her again. Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, and he was angry and beat her with his staff. Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and she said to Balaam, ‘what have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?’ Balaam answered the donkey, ‘You have made a fool of me” If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now.’ The donkey said to Balaam, ‘Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?’ ‘No’, he said. Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed and fell face-down.” – Numbers 22: 21-31*

Balaam was a sorcerer and prophet who lived near the Euphrates River around the time of Moses, the great prophet and law-giver of Israel. Balaam was renowned for his effective curses and blessings. Balak, the king of Moab therefore sent emissaries to him one day to invite him to curse the nation of Israel that he considered a threat. Balaam wanted to go but God said NO. Though Balaam knew God’s mind yet, he persisted in asking for permission to honour Balak’s invitation. His stubbornness was due to

covetousness. He wanted to go with Balak's messengers because of the gifts they brought.

We behave sometimes like prophet Balaam. We ask for God's guidance when we have already made up our minds on what to do. This is not good enough. Don't ask God to drive you if you have already engaged the gear. Be neutral!

God eventually allowed Balaam to travel to Moab to honour Balak's invitation. God simply gave him His permissive will when he rejected His perfect will for him. What do you want in life – God's perfect will or His permissive will? Balaam saddled his donkey and started his journey towards Moab. Thank God he chose to ride a donkey and not any other animal. A donkey is a grey or brown animal like a horse but smaller and with longer ears. The donkey is a strong beast of burden. Although, tough and rugged yet, they are humble and lowly. Donkeys are fast but temperate. They are easy to lead and quite loyal to their owners. Donkeys are quite sensitive because of their big ears and eyes.

It is noteworthy that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself chose to ride a colt, a small donkey and not a horse triumphantly into Jerusalem. When Jesus rode that donkey, He was fulfilling prophecy and destiny. Donkeys seem to have a sense of destiny and are very useful. That was Balaam's saving grace. Whereas, the angel of God was standing on his way with a drawn out sword, Balaam did not see him but the donkey did. Balaam's donkey simply refused to move again despite being kicked and beaten. Balaam could have been killed but for his donkey's sensitivity and action. The Lord eventually opened Balaam's eyes after his donkey spoke.

We all have our donkeys. God provides us our donkeys to carry us into our destiny. However, for your dreams and destiny to be fulfilled, you must learn how not to force your way by kicking your donkey. If your donkey suddenly stops and refuses to continue the journey, don't kick it because that donkey might be saving your life. Most likely, an angel of God might be blocking your way because there is danger ahead. At such times, you would need some patience and humility as you seek the face of God to know what He wants you to do to arrive safely at your destination.

There are those times in life when we suffer certain disappointments, and setbacks and we seem not to understand what is going on. These are times when our dreams are threatened and we are tempted seriously to do something to force our way through. However, we need to be careful and cautious at such times. Those are the times we need to remind ourselves of the truth of the word of God that, ***"A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven."*** – ***John 3: 27***

And that, ***"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who builds it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."*** – ***Psalms 127: 1***

There is nothing really that we can do to force our dreams to fulfilment. We cannot help God at all. Those who have attempted this in the past have always hurt themselves and their dreams. The story of Uzzah is well known in Scripture. According to the account in 2Samuel 6: 5-10, when the Ark of God was brought out, he wanted to help God by stretching forth his hands to hold the ark of the Lord to prevent it from falling. But God smote him instead. Those who want to force the fulfilment of their dreams always hasten to destroy them. The genuine proof that a dream is from God at all is that it comes to pass without any human support, irrespective of the amount of opposition from men and the powers of darkness.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself is a glowing and challenging example of someone who believes His dreams. He affirmatively declared from the onset of His ministry on earth that: ***“I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*** – ***Matthew 16: 18***

This was long before he went to the cross and prior to the Day of Pentecost when the church was eventually born. He was confident that the devil and all his hordes of demons could do nothing at stopping His dream and plan of salvation for mankind. He was relaxed throughout His ministry and trusted God absolutely to establish His dreams. We too can be confident like our Lord and trust God to bring our dreams to fulfilment. This however, is not supposed to suggest that we can do nothing at all but that all our actions must be in line with His word and leadings of His Spirit.