

6-7-20

When A Curse Is A Blessing And A Blessing Is A Curse  
Numbers 22:1-12

**Balak:** Moabite- of Lot's oldest daughter Midian- From Abraham's 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Keturah

**Fear and dread** (What ifs rather than what is):

**Those people** - Dehumanizing language - Those people

**Preserving power** and place by: Common Enemy Intimacy

Curse them so they won't hurt me. Hurting them will curse you

**Blessing and curse:** What defines blessing or curse – Its good for me

**Balaam the pawn:** God's man identifying the blessing of God's people

**God won't let me cures** because they are blessed. Money isn't worth it

**Angel: You are on a reckless path** Donkey eyes to see, mouth to speak

**Balaam:** I can't say whatever I want – They are set apart

God is consistent – Hostile nations devoured – Great Leader will come

The blessed are my curse

Israel's blessing is considered by Balak to be his curse

**Balak** I would have rewarded you but the Lord stopped it

How do you determine blessing or curse? We create a story and live it  
How could biting snakes be a blessing?

**Max Lucado:** The Wood Cutter's White Horse

**Isa 5:20-21**

**Common Enemy Intimacy:** People are hard to hate close up, move in.

**Zay Jones tweet**

**Luke 6:28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

**Romans 12:9-21** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

**Blessing** draws you near God curses pull you away: Money 1 Tim 6:10,  
Family Mt 10:37-39

Balak could have been blessed by Israel's influence

**Exposed dependencies is a blessing – As is God's restrictions**

**Comfort that protects self-dependence is a curse**

**Stop focusing so much on receiving a blessing and be a blessing**

Soon and Very Soon

Old Wood Cutter's White Horse – Max Lucado

Everyone wanted to buy the horse even the King. He would not sell

*He is more than a horse to me.*

*He has such splendor, majesty, strength.*

But you are so poor and would not have a care in the world

One morning he found the stable empty

You fool we told you someone would steal your horse

Now the horse is gone and you've been cursed

*Don't speak so quickly. Say only the horse is gone*

*How can you know if I have been cursed*

*All I know is the stable is empty we only see a piece of reality*

15 days later the horse returned with 12 horses with it

Old man you were right, what was a curse is really a blessing

*Once again you go too far, how do you know if its blessing or curse*

*You only see a fragment, not the whole*

*You read one page how can you know the whole story*

*You try to know more but only guess.*

*I am content and won't be frustrated by what I don't know*

The old man's son began to train the wild horses and broke both legs

The 12 horses were not a blessing but a curse

You are even poorer since he can't work

*All we know is he broke his legs, how can we say it is a curse*

Few weeks later the country went to war drafting all young men & woman

The enemy was strong and little hope for victory

The son was excluded because of his injuries

You were right, your son's accident was a blessing

*You are always drawing conclusions*

*We only know your children went to war mine did not*

*Only God knows if it is a blessing or a curse*

*We must reserve judgement on life's storms until we know the whole*

*story*