

Balak: king of Moab

Fear and dread focuses on “What Ifs”

“Those people” - Dehumanizing language

Preserving power and place by: “Common Enemy Intimacy”

Blessing and curse: What and who defines them

## Balaam: The Pawn

God: You cannot curse what I have blessed

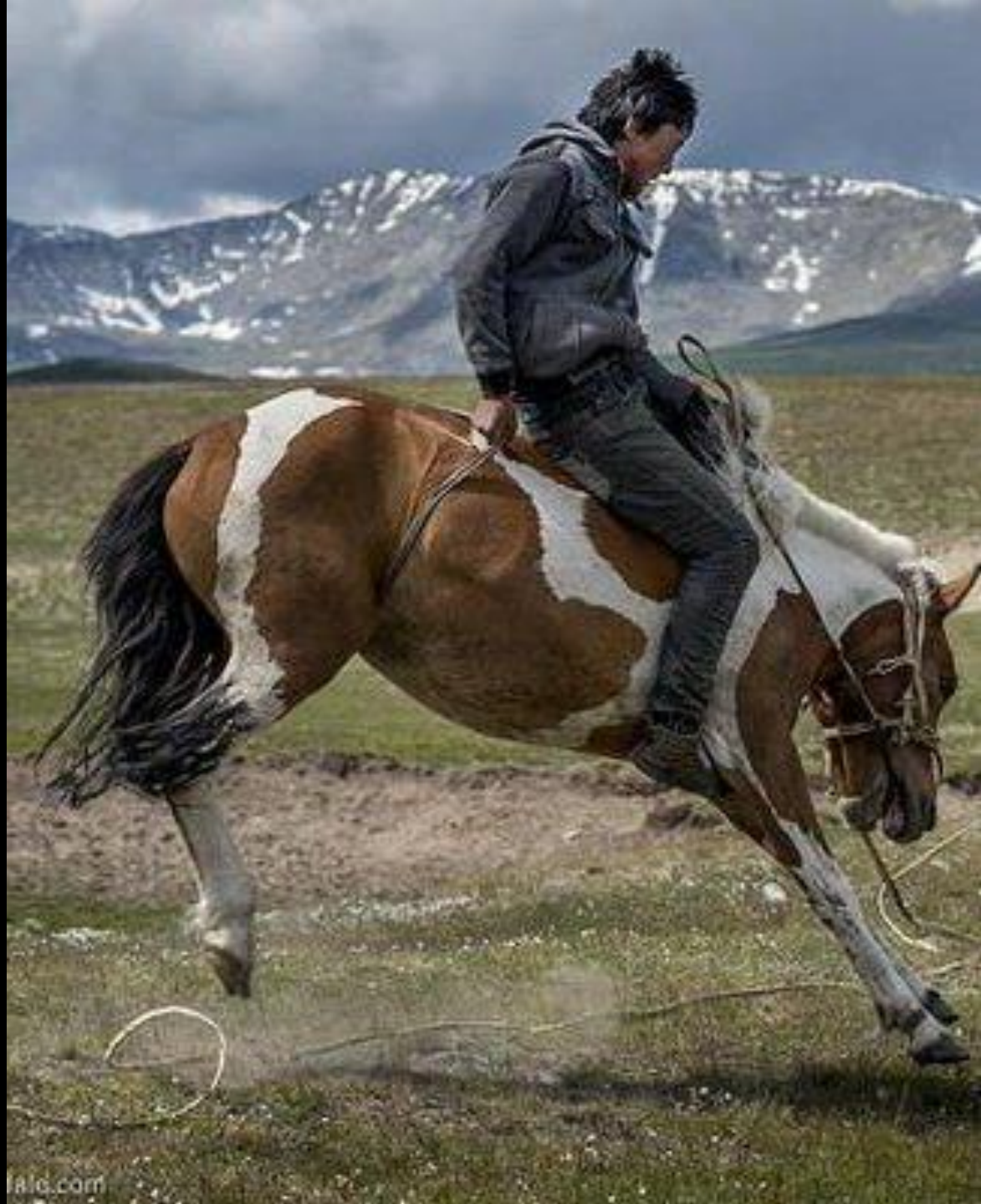
Angel: You are on a reckless path

Balaam: I can't say whatever I want

Balak: I would reward you handsomely, but the Lord has kept you from being rewarded











## Isaiah 5:20-21

Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter.

<sup>21</sup> Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes  
and clever in their own sight.



# Common Enemy Intimacy

“People are hard to hate close up, move in” Dr. Brown LCSW

## Zay Jones



I was just at a local home goods store w/ my cousin getting furniture for my place when an elderly white woman approached me at the check out counter. she looked at me w/ tears in her eyes... & then said "i'm from Minneapolis & I just want you to know "you matter to me."

"I hesitated to hug her bc she was wearing a mask from practicing social distancing, but I asked if she wanted a hug and she folded into my arms. She cried while she told me how important it is to spread love. I didn't get her name but I'm grateful for the encounter,"

Jones ended his message by asking fans to be kind to others.

"Beautiful hearts still exist. be the example. be the light. love others"

# Be a Blessing Not a Curse

Luke 6:27-28 to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. (NIV)

## Be a Blessing Not a Curse

Romans 12:14-21 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

## Be a Blessing Not a Curse

<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.  
(NIV)

# Blessings draw you near God, Curses pull you away

1 Tim 6:10 The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have turned away from what we believe because they want to get more and more money. But they have caused themselves a lot of pain and sorrow. (ERV)

Matt 10:37-39 Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. (NIV)

Exposed dependencies is a blessing

Comforts that protect self-dependency is a curse

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