

# Numbers 22:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

## Analysis

---

The angel releases Balaam to continue: 'Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.' This mirrors God's earlier permission (v.20), emphasizing severe restriction on Balaam's speech. He could physically travel but couldn't deviate from God's words. This foreshadows Jesus' teaching 'The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do' (John 5:19)—submitted servants speak only God's words.

## Historical Context

---

Despite this clear restriction, Balaam later counseled Moab to seduce Israel into sexual immorality and idolatry (25:1-3, 31:16, Revelation 2:14), finding indirect ways to accomplish the curse he couldn't speak. This demonstrates how evil hearts find loopholes when they can't openly disobey.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you seek loopholes around God's clear restrictions when you want different outcomes?
2. What does it mean to speak only what God gives you to say, neither more nor less?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיֹּאמֶר      מַלְאָךְ      יְהוָה      אֵל      בַּלָּעַם      לֵךְ      עִם  
said      And the angel      of the LORD      H413      So Balaam      H1980      H5973  
H559      H4397      H3068      H1109

אֵלַי יֵרָא      תְּדַבֵּר      אֲשֶׁר      הַדָּבָר      אֲתָ      וְאֶפְסָ      הָאֲנָשִׁים  
H376      but only      H853      the word      H834      that I shall speak      H413  
H657      H1697      H1696

בָּלָק:      שָׂרֵי      עִם      בַּלָּעַם      וַיֵּלֶךְ      תְּדַבֵּר      אֲתָ      וְ  
H853      that I shall speak      H1980      So Balaam      H5973      with the princes      of Balak  
H1696      H8269      H1111