

to him and he said, Come and I will give you great honor and a lot of money and here we have another wonderful verse, vs. 18: "And Balaam answered. . . (read text) That's a wonderful statement. If it had been said by anybody else it would be something that we would quote a great deal as a marvellous statement, but you rarely hear it quoted because of the general condemnation of Balaam. But it's a marvellous statement. "I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord, to say less or more" and he didn't either as you read on.

But then vs. 19 is a terrible vs. and vs. 19 is almost identical with the vs. we looked at before which was a wonderful vs. And this is a terrible vs. and the reason is because it is in a different situation. There are very few things that in themselves are right or wrong. It is the situation, it is the use that is made of the thing that determines whether it is good or bad, whether it is right or wrong. Here he said to them, Stay this night that I may know what the Lord will say to me. Well he has already said it. He already knew God's will. He didn't need to look further. And it is amazing how many people you will find that if you do something that is right will honor you, will glory in it, will say that is marvellous and then when the time comes that they have a chance to lose something by following your example, or they have a chance to gain something by not following ^{it} they they said, Well now I'm not sure what the Lord's will is on this matter. I'll have to think and consider more. I remember one time when some of us had come out of a church that had fallen into apostate control, and a woman said: That is marvellous, you have left this apostate church. That is marvellous, I glory in that you have done it."And she said, If the Lord leads me to leave, I will leave, but the Lord hasn't led me the way he's led you so I'm staying here now." Well I believe we should find what the Lord's will is and then act upon it, and ~~if~~ the Lord's will is pretty apt to be the same for other ~~if~~ people in the same situation.

So here Balaam knew the Lord's will but he didn't act on it. He said, Let's see here what the Lord's will is. And if you start trying to twist the ^UScripture to fit your desire, you generally can find an excuse. You generally can find some reason to convince yourself that you are doing right even when you know it's wrong.