

## Lessons from Cain, Balaam, and Korah

[www.makinglifecount.net](http://www.makinglifecount.net)

Jude, who was the half-brother of Jesus, warned us about three ways that worship can be corrupted. He wrote, “Woe to them! For they have gone the **way of Cain**, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the **error of Balaam**, and perished in the **rebellion of Korah**” (Jude 11).

**1. The Way of Cain (Worshipping apathetically)** Cain was the first religionist and didn't understand how to worship God correctly. Cain went through the motions of worship but didn't have true faith in God (Heb. 11:4). He didn't live righteously like Abel but was evil in his behavior. First John 3:12 says, “...Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.” **Cain represents the person who regularly attends church and goes through the motions of worship, but his heart isn't right with God and lives an unholy life.**

**2. The Error of Balaam (Misusing authority for financial gain)** Balaam was a prophet who tried to use his prophetic gift for personal financial gain. He compromised his integrity because he “loved the wages of unrighteousness” (2 Peter 2:15). Balaam was so despicable to God that he is mentioned in eight different books of the Bible (Numbers 22, Deut. 23:4-5, Josh. 24:9-10, Neh. 13:2, Mic. 6:5, 2 Pet. 2:15, Jude 1:11, Rev. 2:14). **Balaam represents deceptive pastors, evangelists, and ministers who use their positions of authority to manipulate their congregations to gain personal wealth.** God will expose their motives on the Day of Judgment.

**3. The Rebellion of Korah (Usurping godly authority)** Korah led a rebellion against God's leader Moses, who was the most humble man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3). He wanted to overthrow Moses as leader because he refused to submit to godly authority (Numbers 16). **Korah represents rebellious church members who try to overthrow godly pastors and force them out of the church.** This is a very serious sin and will bring harsh punishment from God.

Making Life Count Ministries  
P.O. Box 680174  
Prattville, Alabama 36068-0174