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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1453 ~ Five Girls ask for Justice.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Throughout the history of our world, very few women have held positions of authority in government. Most people have said leadership is not for women. In some places, a woman still has no inheritance rights as long as she has a living male relative; and her testimony in law courts has only half the value of a man's. She must stay home, raise the children and look after the house. Of course this is a noble and important job. Good and wise mothers help their children to become good and wise people. But it is sad and wrong for people to believe a woman and her work has less value than a man and his work.

The Bible book Genesis, chapter 1, tells us God first created the world with all its wonderful plants, birds, insects, animals and fish. Then He said, "Now we will make human beings.

They will be like us." So God created human beings male and female. He blessed them and told them to use and care for everything He had made. In that far-off beginning, God gave men and women equal value. But when God's great enemy, Satan, tricked Adam and Eve, they disobeyed their loving Creator and everything changed.

They could no longer enjoy fellowship with God, and Adam ruled over Eve. From that time on, men have held the power, and many people groups have thought that women were of little value. The Bible tells how this came about, but it does not say this was God's will. Instead, Eve was to be a helper and suitable companion for Adam.

Some people think that men and women being equal is a modern idea. But 2,000 years ago, the Lord Jesus Christ, God's One and Only Son, taught that all people, male and female, are equally valuable to Him.

He gave great honour to women; He showed God's love and care to women whom others despised. He came into our world through a woman. The first person He spoke to, when He arose from death, was a woman. Back in those days, Jesus showed God values women as much as He values men.

There's a story in the Bible about five women, who lived about 1500 years before Jesus came into our world. Through them, God taught the people of Israel to give equal rights to women. This story in Numbers Chapter 27 is not very well known, but it is interesting.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

Zelophehad's five daughters knew their family line would disappear if they could not inherit any land. They would be beggars with nowhere to live. And there was no hope for them to get married, if they had no dowry.

This story shows God is fair and just to women, as well as to men. Many times in the Bible, God tells His people to care for poor and lonely widows. One Bible story tells how God guided an older widow, Naomi, and her widowed daughter-in-law, Ruth. Young Ruth was from the land of Moab. She had been an idol-worshipper, but she changed to worship the True and Living God. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, the royal line through which Jesus, the Son of God came into our world.

The book 1 Samuel, chapter 25, gives honour to a wise young woman, Abigail. David and his followers had protected her husband's flocks, but her selfish husband refused to give any food to David's hungry men.

Abigail disobeyed her wrong-thinking husband. She took food to the men and so stopped them from taking revenge.

Chapter 31 of the Bible book Proverbs says a lot about the really good wife. She had many skills. She taught others. She bought and sold land and she made good decisions for her family. She dressed well and her husband was proud that she was his wife.

The Apostle Paul's letters say Christian women should respect and honour their husbands and look after their children well. Their aim should be to make home a place of kindness and peace, a place that welcomes others and where the name of Jesus is loved and honoured.

This is the first job of all women who belong to Jesus, but when their families are grown up, they may be able to do more. Paul's letters also show he highly valued women who helped him spread the Good News about Jesus. He talks about one woman, Priscilla, and her husband, Aquila. They helped Paul in many ways. Paul praised both the mother and grandmother of his young friend, Timothy, because they had taught him God's truth throughout his childhood. Paul knew God chooses some women for special work, even though caring for home and family is God's main calling for most women.

It is easy to think the Bible puts women down, if you have only heard what some other people say. You need to know for yourself what it really teaches. And you need to know the Almighty God's love and mercy is for <u>all</u> people, for both men <u>and</u> women equally.

In the Bible book Mark Chapter 12 the Lord Jesus Himself taught that when this life is over for men and women they shall no longer be either male or female but like the angels in heaven. The present differences between the sexes will be gone and there will be no getting married any more. While some women may think this is good news indeed, the really important question has to be asked:

Whether you are male or female, is your life submitted to our Creator God? This deferring to God in everything that is right, is the same attitude that the Lord Jesus had when He was here on earth. Although equal to God, He lived in submission to His Father in heaven.

At the end of this world the Lord Jesus will be the just judge. All who shun His offer of forgiveness now will have to face Him as Judge later. Ask Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour today.

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Cathy Riso with the song As a Father Has Compassion"

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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