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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1465 ~ Jephthah's Daughter.

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

Life used to be much simpler than it is nowadays. Someone might promise to help a person in some way, or make right something that had been wrong. He would say, “You have my word on it,” and that would be enough. The other person would know he could trust him. But in our times people do not trust each other unless they have a written agreement signed by both. This is proof about what they agreed on. And even that does not always work well. If one of them wants to get out of the contract made, he might hire a lawyer to try to make the words of the agreement mean something different.

The Almighty God is not like that. He is always just and true. Psalm 145 in the Bible says, “The Lord is faithful to His promises.” God wants His children to be like Him and not break our word, even when it hurts.

The children of Israel understood this. The Bible book Numbers, chapter 30, says Moses told the tribal leaders, “When a man makes a vow to give something to the Lord, or takes an oath to abstain from something, he must not break his promise, but must do everything he promised.”

Today's story is a sad one. It is from the Bible book of Judges Chapter 11 and is about a brave man who did not think carefully enough before he made a promise to God.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

Life had not been easy for Jephthah. His brothers were sons of their father's **wife** but Jephthah was the son of a prostitute. Their father, Gilead, had cared for him but when all the sons were grown up they forced their half-brother out of home. He had to live in the wild and he became a leader of other outcast men.

Israel had again turned away to worship man-made idols. For eighteen long years they suffered from raiding parties coming across the Jordan River. At last they understood their troubles had come because they had rebelled against their God. They were truly sorry. They got rid of their evil gods and turned back to the Lord. But things looked a whole lot worse for them when the powerful Ammonites got their army together ready to attack Israel. The Israelites was afraid.

They too assembled an army but no one wanted to lead it. Knowing Jephthah to be a good fighter, they called him from another region.

I wonder why Jephthah made a solemn promise to give a **special** burnt offering of his own to God? God had not wanted any of the other judges and leaders to make a special sacrifice to Him. Perhaps Jephthah felt he must make a bargain or God would not help him. He made a rash and risky promise.

In the Bible book Matthew Chapter 5, the Lord Jesus tells Christians not to get caught up with taking oaths and vows as solemn promises to God. We are to simply let our "Yes" be yes and our "No" be no. It's most important to think very seriously before making a promise of any kind or we might regret it later.

The Bible book Romans, chapter 12, says, “Because of God’s great mercy to us, I appeal to you: offer **yourselves** as a **living sacrifice** to God, dedicated to His service, and pleasing to Him...”

The Bible does not tell us clearly whether Jephthah killed his beloved daughter, then gave her as a burnt offering to God. He knew God’s commandment, ‘You shall not murder.’ And in Deuteronomy, chapter 18, Moses said: “Don’t sacrifice your children in the fires on your altars.....God hates people doing this.” God never wants people to harm their own children, especially when they are too young to be born. Jephthah may have redeemed his daughter’s life with money but she would not be able to get married and give Jephthah descendents.

What bitter grief Jephthah caused for himself and his daughter! Many times in life we may wish we could turn the clock back just a minute or two. If we could reverse time and do things differently, we would be happy. The hasty accusing words we have said could be reclaimed and stopped in time.

Some years ago a rumour was circulated against a large company making baby food in the United States. Although there was no claim the company had done anything wrong, the rumour said the company was going to pay out money to a lot of families with young children. This bogus story went like wildfire. The company tried to stop it by telling the newspapers, TV stations and internet sites. Over the following three weeks the company received eighteen thousand phone calls on their toll free number asking for a bogus claim form. The rumour cost the company millions of dollars.

Passing along a rumour may seem harmless but someone pays an undeserved price if we are not careful about the truth. Never take lightly the power of the tongue to do others harm. Certainly in our prayers we should ask for wisdom for the right wise words to use in every situation.

The great thing about this piece of history is the example of the daughter watching and waiting for her father's return. All God's children trust in the death of the Lord Jesus to be their substitute to cleanse their wrongdoing. These grateful believers should be waiting for His return. God has promised in the Bible book of Romans Chapter 5, to save all believers in Jesus from God's wrath against sin which will be poured on the earth in the coming time called The Great Tribulation.

In the Bible book Acts Chapter 1, two angels were sent to the disciples with God's promise that the Lord Jesus would return again, just as He had left. This means that each believer in Christ should be prepared and watching. In Matthew Chapter 24, God has promised a special blessing for those who are ready and busy doing His work when the Lord Jesus unexpectedly returns. Will you be ready when Jesus comes?

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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