



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1484 ~ Jonathan eats forbidden food.

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

About a century ago, an older woman suffered from a serious disease. The prescribed medicine was very expensive and her family sacrificed many other things so she could have the best treatment. However, she did not seem to be getting any better. One day the family caught her throwing out a dose of the expensive, awful-tasting medicine instead of drinking it. Imagine how upset and hurt they must have been at the old woman's actions!

Most people can tell stories of selfish behaviour either among others or even at a national level. All the people in Israel had suffered from the difficult times that the Philistines had caused them to go through. However, King Saul thought only of himself. He continued to make himself and not God in charge of the battles to be fought. To make things look better, he even arranged for a priest to bring the Ark of God to the camp where he was.

After Jonathan and his armour bearer had captured a Philistine garrison of about twenty men, King Saul wanted the priest with the Ark to consult with God to him. God had sent panic and an earthquake to shake the Philistine camp. As the noise of battle grew louder, Saul decided not to wait any longer for directions from God but hurried his men into the fray.

Before the Israelite soldiers were sent over to the Philistine camp to fight, King Saul made one last blunder. He forbade the soldiers from eating any food until he had the battle victory at the end of the day.

Throughout history time and time again, the leader of a nation has caused trouble for his people by the restrictions he placed on them. Never before had Saul's soldiers been forbidden to eat on the day of a battle! How could Saul gain any advantage over the enemy by putting this fear of eating upon his fighting men? Jonathan did not know about his father's oath when he ate some wild honey, which strengthened and invigorated him. Jonathan knew that without food, the soldiers and his own battle success was in jeopardy.

King Saul was very keen to keep the battle going through the night. When the soldiers had eaten plenty from the spoils of the Philistines, he encouraged them, tired as they were, to keep going. The priest wanted to consult God, but God would not give guidance. Even though Saul's oath harmed his men's ability to defeat the Philistines, God knew that Jonathon had not honoured Saul's oath and this in turn, caused a barrier between God and the Israelites.

This story just shows how careful we must be with what we say. On Judgment Day, people will not be able to tell God that they did not really mean the words they spoke on earth. In our story, God would not speak to the priest again until the matter of Saul's oath was settled.

If a person makes an oath or vow to God, even in a time of distress or high emotion, Solomon in the Bible book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 5, advises us not to delay in fulfilling it or deny that a promise to God was made.

The Lord Jesus also showed how the religious leaders of His day made up complicated rules about taking oaths, so as to make some types binding and others not. The Lord taught his followers not to make oaths. In the Bible book Matthew, Chapter 5, He said: “Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no, no:’ anything beyond this comes from the evil one.”

Have you ever noticed how uncaring and uncompassionate a leader can be? King Saul did not seem to have any affection for his crown prince, his own son, and demanded that he die for breaking his oath. But the people appreciated Jonathon and would not let him be harmed. General Abner was a first cousin of King Saul and commander of his army and he never wanted to see his nephew Jonathan killed. Even though King Saul had to back down and save Jonathon, he also had to give up his plan of chasing the Philistines any further.

A crippled woman permanently in a wheelchair had her husband drive her to a shopping centre. He pushed her chair around the shops until they came to the mail boxes at the post office. There she had a postal worker take photos of herself trying to reach high enough to post a letter. She was aiming to get publicity to force the postal network to reduce the height of all their mail boxes. As soon as the photo taking was finished, however, her husband stepped forward again and pushed her in her wheelchair away. This woman could never post a letter no matter what height the mail box was without extra help of some sort. But she wanted her rights, even if the rights had to cost someone else at their expense.

The Lord Jesus does not want us to be demanding our own way. When He was taken prisoner just before His crucifixion, He did not make demands or get abusive. He remained silent. He was rejected; rejected by the people He had created, disowned by his best friends, scorned by those He had helped and denied justice by the rulers of the day. He lost the constant communion He had always had with His Father. He lost his life blood.

Yet the Lord Jesus allowed all this sorrow and shame to happen to Him out of love and obedience to his Father to fulfil the purpose of bringing willing sinners back to God. If you have never realized just how great God's love for you is, spend time thinking about Christ's sacrifice for us. Just as the Lord Jesus rose victorious over death, we can rise above sin too, IF we give ourselves in faith completely to Him. Daily we must die to the self-centredness within us and put God first in everything. Don't be like King Saul and demand your own way.

Hell is the place where people who are not prepared to die to themselves or live for God, will have their own way forever. The troubles we face here on earth because we belong to God cannot be compared with the joys we will have one day in heaven.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Gary Sadler singing "To God Alone Wise."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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