

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT: A1493 ~ David saves Keilah.

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

Over a decade ago, one of the world's richest men gave a conference lecture. In question time afterwards, a medical doctor asked the billionaire if he would be prepared to spend all his fortune to get his sight restored if he became blind. The rich man promptly replied that he would trade all of it for his sight. If we have nothing else but our sight, hearing, mobility, health and use of our hands, we have much to be grateful for because they are a priceless gift from God.

In the Scriptures, thanksgiving is a sign we know and trust God's goodness for us. In Psalm 136 it says: "Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good; His love is eternal." And the New Testament book of Ephesians, Chapter 5, says: "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father." Blest people who delight in God's blessings for themselves and others are thankful people.

On an island just north of South America, a visiting pastor was leading a worship service in a leper colony. A woman who had been facing away from the pulpit turned around. The pastor saw the disease had completely destroyed her nose and ears. Hers was the most hideous face he had ever seen. This lady then lifted a fingerless hand in the air and asked, "Can we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings'?" The visiting pastor was at first overcome by emotion. Then he realized that thanksgiving comes from the love of God, not from outward circumstances.

But just as today's drama tells, not everyone is grateful for the help that unexpectedly comes their way. When a person's life and possessions are saved from death and ruin, thankfulness is a natural response. However, if it did in this situation, it was very short-lived.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

The city of Keilah was located in a valley in Judah about eight miles north-west of Hebron. It had walls and gates and the Philistines were robbing the people there of their freshly gathered grain. After enquiring of the Lord twice, David and his men went down there and saved the city.

It did not take long before King Saul heard about the victory at Keilah. He was very pleased because he thought he could now catch David with no escape route out of that city. When David sought the Lord about all this, the Lord revealed that those people of Keilah, the very ones he had just rescued, would give him and his six hundred men into the hands of King Saul.

God knew the treachery in the hearts of those people. Rather than be loyal to David, they put their self interests first. They did not want their city surrounded by Saul's troops any more than they had wanted the Philistine army there.

It is true that we cannot always expect everybody we help to appreciate what we have done for them. We too, can be just as guilty of not being thankful for what others have done for us. When David and his men left Keilah, they went to a wilderness in the hill country. Because Saul was told that David had left the city, Saul did not follow. The people of Israel had to cope with a king who lived for only one purpose - killing David. Saul so badly desired to kill David that he pursued David every day. But God would not allow Saul to capture David. For his part, though, David did not desire to harm Saul or betray him in any way.

The greatest act of treachery and betrayal in the New Testament was done by a chosen disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. His name was Judas Iscariot. Judas was the treasurer of the apostles' money box and had stolen from it. For over three years Judas had seen the many miracles done by the Lord Jesus. He had listened to the Lord's teaching and had opportunity to ask questions.

Yet Judas did not believe that Jesus was the God-man, fully God but also fully human. At the last meal together before His crucifixion, the Lord indicated to Judas that He knew what Judas was about to do. If this foreknowledge was a warning to Judas it had no effect. Judas went to the religious elite and came to a financial payment with them for showing the soldiers which person was Jesus one dark night. The price for this service was the normal price usually paid for a slave.

We who love the Lord must guard our hearts from becoming insensitive to others, uncaring and indifferent, and finally, a heart of stone. How could Judas use a sign of affection – a kiss – to betray the Lord Jesus to the arresting soldiers!

The next morning when Judas realized the terrible thing he had done, he deeply regretted it. He did not ask God for forgiveness to take away his guilt and shame. There is a big difference between regret and repentance. Millions of people have marched into an eternity of hell because they never sought forgiveness from God through repentance. Repentance is sorrow over personal wrongdoing and turning away from doing that type of thing again. Was it their pride that kept them on the road to hell? Possibly, but also with unforgiven hearts, they had a complete disregard for the way God commanded they must come to Him. There is an idea abroad in the world that all religions lead to God. But this is a big lie of Satan. Christ is the only true way.

In the Bible book Acts Chapter 4 it says of Jesus Christ of Nazareth: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Humble yourself before God. Put all your trust in Jesus Christ to carry you spiritually over from death to life. Read from a Bible or New Testament each day, even if it's only a small section. As you increase in your knowledge of God, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, your own attitudes and goals will change to please the Lord. Perfection is not possible while we are here on earth but we strive to please and love our God with all our might. Always be faithful and loyal to Christ. Be warned today: don't be a Judas!

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Paul Baloche singing "Enter His Gates."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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