BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS
www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:
A1499   ~   A Brave Rescue.

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

Late in the day a woman visited her butcher and asked to buy a raw chicken. The butcher went to his barrel of chickens and pulled out the last one. He put it on the scales and told her how much it would cost. She thought for a moment and asked for a bigger one. So the butcher took the chicken off the scales and put it back in his barrel. Then he pulled out the same chicken and told her it was a pound heavier. She was pleased and said she would take both chickens. The butcher tried to deceive this woman. And trying to deceive is usually found out fairly quickly.

Nearly 4000 years ago, a son called Jacob tried to deceive his elderly father that he was his older brother Esau. Jacob's father was convinced he was speaking to Esau and gave Jacob a blessing that should have been for Esau. This deception caused Jacob to leave home to save his life from Esau. The descendents of Jacob are now called Israelites and the descendents of Esau Palestinians and they are still fighting. No one likes to be deceived or cheated.

Despairing that one day Saul would catch up with him, David made a decision to travel to the city of Gath in the land of the Philistines. He made an agreement with the king there and helped him fight against other countries. Achish, the king of Gath trusted David and gave him and his group the city of Ziklag to live in. Ziklag was a city of Judah that the Philistines had captured previously. When King Saul heard David had left Israel altogether, he never tried to chase him any further.

But hiding in Gath was a foolish decision. David started to live a life of deception. He pretended to be friends with people who should have been his enemies. David stopped trusting God to continue looking after him and his followers in Israel, the land which God had given to his ancestors. Instead, he thought only of survival. This meant David had to trust the enemy for protection and not God. The Bible book Psalms Chapter 27 gives this advice: "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He will strengthen your heart." The big test of David's loyalty to God or the Philistine king came the day before the king's army went to fight against King Saul and the Israeli army.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

David and his followers were out of place in the land of the Philistines. But God in His mercy still cared for them. This is an encouragement to us for if we sin, but we must not use God's grace as an excuse to keep on in our sin. The king of Gath never seemed to realize what was going on, so David must have been good at acting. But what good is it to be successful at deception? Hypocrisy and telling lies destroyed King Saul. David would become destroyed too if he didn't get out of this type of behaviour.

When David and his men returned to Ziklag from the Philistine army camp, they found it destroyed. This was a great loss. They had lost their loved ones and everything they owned. The Amalekites had taken away the people and all the spoil they could find before setting the city on fire. David was so sorry, as too were all his men.

In times of crisis, leaders show what type of character they have. David encouraged his men by pointing out that there were no dead people on the ground. Their families could still be alive. He prayed to God and sought His will. As God is always in complete control, He told them to pursue the raiders.

Some of David's men were too exhausted to continue the pursuit once they reached a river to cross. A sick Egyptian slave, left to die by the Amalekites helped David and his men to find the raiders' camp. They reclaimed their families and gained even more spoil. What appeared to be a tragedy at first became victory and profit for everybody, including David's men left behind too weary to keep going.

David could see he had a problem in his life by telling lies and pretence. Some people live their whole lives pretending to be very pleasant in public but show their true nature in private. This is called 'public face, private face' and is very displeasing to the Lord. In the 1st Epistle of John, Chapter 3, it says: "Let no one deceive you, my children! Whoever does what is right is righteous, just as Christ is righteous. Whoever continues to sin belongs to the Devil, because the Devil has sinned from the very beginning."

Each one of us has some personality weaknesses that we struggle to overcome. They could be impatience, anger, irritability, defensiveness and the like. These are sometimes known as besetting sins. Other people may not notice them but we know these are areas of weakness where Satan tries again and again to tempt us to sin. Gaining the victory over these weak points is important. If left unattended, they will cause us to live a defeated Christian life.

There are many warnings in the Bible that tell us not to let ourselves be deceived. The Lord Jesus warned his disciples that many false Christs would come but they were to ignore them. In the New Testament book of James, Chapter 1, it says: "Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to God's words; instead put them into practice." If you do put God's teachings into practice, you will be greatly blessed by God in whatever you do.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in the New Testament and told them that he and his fellow workers did not act with deceit, nor did they falsify the word of God. This is one of the biggest areas of deception for modern day Christians. Each believer must read the Scriptures for him or herself and seek God's truth with all their hearts. Do not take someone else's word for what the Bible says.

We must live our lives carefully. The New Testament book Galatians, Chapter 6, says: "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant." Pray to God for forgiveness for past mistakes and ask the Lord Jesus to be your guide and help in coming days.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >