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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1506 ~ The Ark comes to Jerusalem.

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

In the last seconds of a 1994 soccer match, a player named Rob saw an opening to kick a goal. Before he struck the ball, though, he noticed that the time clock on the scoreboard said “zero” playing time left. He had not heard the referee’s whistle so he kicked the ball in and his team was awarded a goal. This goal gave the game a match draw.

The other team protested that the last goal should not be counted. Rob went to the referee and asked if the playing time was taken from the referee’s stopwatch or the scoreboard clock. The referee replied, “The scoreboard.” Rob went to his coaches and explained the situation. They agreed and conceded defeat to the other team. Even though it made a lost match for Rob’s team, everyone wanted to play by the rules. Rob said, “Doing the right thing is more important. It lets you have peace.”

In today’s drama God’s rules were overlooked by King David and the people of Israel. What started out as a joyful occasion turned into a tragedy and confusion for everyone involved.

Back in the time when the people of Israel had come out of Egypt, God gave Moses rules on how to make a Tabernacle tent for worshipping God. In part of that worship centre, named the Most Holy Place, was put the Ark of the Covenant.

This ark was overlaid with gold inside and out as a symbol of God's presence and close relationship with His people. God had made a covenant, which is an agreement, with the Israelites. If they kept Him as their God, He would bless them but if they turned away to worship idols made from wood, brass or stone, God would send them trouble.

When Joshua and the people conquered the cities of their new promised land, the Tabernacle was established at the city of Shiloh and it remained there for the entire period that judges ruled over Israel. The Ark of the Covenant was sometimes taken to battles. At the end of Eli the High Priest's rule, the Philistines captured the Ark. They took it to their pagan god's place of worship but plague broke out among the Philistine people in every city that they stored it. After seven months of plague, the Philistines willingly returned the Ark to the Israelites, sending it to them on a cart drawn by two cows that were led by God.

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

King David had been riding a wave of success. The people approved of his leadership and God had blessed both king and people. David greatly desired to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the new capital city of Israel. He planned a great procession of 30,000 important people to accompany the Ark on its journey to Jerusalem.

But what David didn't do was consult God about this plan or at least checked with the High Priest to see what the procedures of moving the Ark should have been.

What a shock King David received when one of the Ark's attendants Uzzah died instantly from touching it after one of the oxen stumbled. David became angry with God. We see that Uzzah was steadying the Ark from toppling, but in doing so, he disobeyed God and disrespected what the Ark represented – God's presence. If David had followed God's rules for moving the Ark, the Ark would not have been travelling on a cart in the first place.

As a result of Uzzah's unexpected death, the procession was cancelled and everyone went back to their homes. The Ark was left in the house and under the care of a Levite porter living close to where Uzzah died.

David became fearful of God and wondered how he could move the Ark to Jerusalem safely. If the Ark had been carried on the shoulders of Levites, God would not have judged Uzzah and David would not need to be afraid. God's throne does not need a man's hand to keep it steady and safe.

When all else fails, it's time to read the instruction book. God's instructions. After a full discussion with the High Priest, David made a second attempt to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. This time, he did it God's way and the Ark was placed in a tent prepared for it. As the procession with the Ark moved along, the people and King David celebrated and worshipped the Lord by dancing in joy and singing with musical instruments. Once the Ark was safe and the event over, David gave the people gifts of food and they all went home.

Not everyone was delighted, however, with the singing and dancing procession that brought the Ark into Jerusalem. David's wife, Princess Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet David with harsh words of criticism, scorn and judgment. She disapproved of his enthusiastic, servant-dressed dancing and singing display before God and the people. David knew that Michal did not respect him any more and their relationship died. Although David never treated Michal unkindly thereafter, she remained estranged from him until her death.

How do we react when we are criticized? The Bible advises us never to be afraid of honest criticism. If it is correct, the criticism has helped us. If it is not, then reject it without taking personal offence. Forgive the criticiser and remember the words of a world famous preacher who once said: "If my life is fruitful (for the Lord), it doesn't matter who criticizes me."

One day a learned man asked the Lord Jesus which is the greatest commandment in the Law. In Mark's Gospel Chapter 12 the Lord Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' There are no other commandments more important than these two."

In the New Testament book of I Corinthians, Chapter 9, the Apostle Paul talks about his personal discipline so that he might not be found to have broken the rules in the race of life and thus, become disqualified in God's way. We all need to live our lives aiming to win the crown of everlasting life. Breaking or bending God's rules could well mean disqualification. God wants a relationship with His people but the time for people to turn to God is very short. Don't be like Rob in the soccer game, who missed out because he was too late in kicking that last important goal.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Melodie Christensen singing "Blessed in Him."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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