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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1508 ~ David honours Mephibosheth.

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

One popular tourist destination in London is an impressive set of stone buildings called the Tower of London. The first of the Tower's buildings was constructed nearly 1000 years ago, surrounded by walls and a moat of water. The Tower's main functions since then have been to be a fortress, royal palace and also, a prison for high status and royal prisoners.

It was during the 15th and 16th centuries that a few English kings imprisoned any rivals to the throne in the Tower. Some of these prisoners disappeared in suspicious circumstances while others were executed.

The practice of a new king protecting his throne from rivals has been carried on for much of civilization. Today's *Bible Adventure* took place around 3000 years ago when King David ruled Israel, and the same theme of danger is evident for the last remaining relatives of King Saul.

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

Young Mephibosheth had spent years of his life being angry and full of self-pity.

Mephibosheth was only five years old when his father Jonathan and grandfather Saul were killed in battle. But he had a handicap – he could not walk like normal people. His angry outbursts could have been a mask for being afraid for his life. He was living on the eastern side of the Jordan River, far away from Jerusalem when one day, he was summoned to court to meet King David.

Having never met King David, Mephibosheth had formed his opinion of David from what he had heard from others. People sometimes gather their ideas about God – not by checking in the Bible, but by watching other Christians' behaviour. One man saw a Christian gain some money that did not rightfully belong to him. Just that one example caused the watching man to declare he would never become a Christian. What a mistake to form a view of God by looking at people only! But it just shows how important it is for believers to take great care not to bring shame to the name of the Lord. And let's not forget, the watching man's rejection of Christ could have been an excuse not to surrender his heart full of envy and rebellion.

Anger can be described as an acid that can do more harm to the angry person than to the person the anger is poured out against. This was discovered in the 1990s when a survey was done in the major cities of the United States asking people what made them feel hostile and angry. The results ended up showing that anger kills.

There is a strong link between hostility and higher death rates. The angrier and more cynical people are, the shorter their life span. It is better to forgive the injuries and injustices of the past than to allow them to remain, letting bitterness take root and poison the rest of one's earthly life.

Mephibosheth found that when he finally met King David, David wasn't the kind of person he thought he was. David returned all Saul's land and personal wealth to the young man, making him realise that David was not motivated by money or power. David even organized Saul's servant and his family to work the land for Mephibosheth. And to add to all this, David showed Mephibosheth great kindness by inviting him to eat at the royal table with David's own sons. How glad Mephibosheth was to be given such a privilege!

Kindness is God's plan for making our world work better. One freezing cold night, a weary man returned home from work. As he lived alone, he had not begun to prepare an evening dinner when a neighbour brought a hot meal to his door. How he enjoyed that food! He said he would remember that gift until the end of his days. Kindness makes a person feel good, whether it is being done to him or by him.

For those of us who trust in the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and Redeemer from the penalty of sin, kindness is expected from us as evidence that God's Holy Spirit lives in our lives. Where possible, an extra measure of compassion should be directed to those who are disabled, just as Mephibosheth was. He was lame in both feet.

Having a handicap of some type does not mean we are useless in God's sight and service. In the country of Nepal, north of India around 40 years ago, a 10-year old boy climbed up a tall tree to chop off leaves for feeding the goats. While up there, he had a blackout and fell to the ground. When he awoke, the boy had a stabbing pain in his back and could not walk or sit up. This type of injury is feared by the people of Nepal more than any other sickness because a person who cannot walk, cannot survive.

The injured boy was taken to hospital the next day and the doctor discovered he was paralysed from the waist down. There was no hope of recovery. His family wanted him to stay in hospital for several weeks and promised to bring food each day. After a few days, however, the boy's family and village people abandoned him. The care and compassion of the Christian nursing staff at the hospital sustained him at first. But then he went through a period of depression, made worse by bed sores from lying in bed for too long. The boy just wanted to go home and die.

One day, the boy began to read a New Testament to pass the time. He spent weeks reading it and finally came to accept Christ's offer of a full and abundant life. He found a hope and purpose for his existence in Jesus Christ. The boy became a new person inside and was quite different from what he had been before. He learnt to type and handle the hospital accounts.

A special room was built for him at one end of the hospital and over time, he became the chairman of the local church committee and an effective speaker. With a special cushion in his wheelchair, he became able to sit up and work all day without getting further bed sores.

Although God did not heal the boy's paralysis, God became a support to a degree that only a few others ever experience. If you could speak to this man today, he would tell you he is thankful he fell out of that tree. God had changed him on the inside, despite his paralysis on the outside. Some people think they can do all the outward things that Christians do and this will change them on the inside. But this is not God's way to change a person. He wants us to live our lives depending on Him. This attitude starts inside and works its way out into our actions in our daily living. If you have never come to that point of giving yourself to the Lord Jesus in utter dependency, pray to Him about this today.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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