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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1509 ~ David's Courtesy Rejected.

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

Large nations of the world set up diplomatic arrangements with each other to deal with problems associated with their people living in other countries. An official ambassador is appointed to work within his nation's embassy to help solve these problems and also promote trading arrangements between nations. When there are disagreements between nations, the official ambassadors are the ones who are told the complaints and are expected to take them back their own nations' decision makers.

Embassy staff are generally held in high respect and normally receive special privileges. King David of Israel sent a group of his people, known as a delegation, to visit King Hanun of the Ammonites. This was a courtesy gesture to express sympathy to the new Ammonite king over the death of his father Nahash. But when David's delegation arrived, they were received with great suspicion. There, David's ambassador addressed the court of King Hanun:

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

King David's gesture of kindness to Hanun was rejected. David's delegation certainly didn't expect to receive the insults they did. In fact, they were very embarrassed to return to Jerusalem – half-naked and with half their beards missing. Such insults were not done to these men for anything they had said or done. Instead, it was done to provoke David into war with the Ammonites.

At times, believers in the Lord Jesus can receive rudeness and ill treatment from others who plan to harm the work of Christians. How then should we react? In reality, how *do* we act? It is easy to carry an injustice and look for an opportunity to set things right for our own favour. However, such times require persistent prayer to overcome evil with God's goodness.

Imagine if your house was burnt down deliberately to discourage you or your church buildings were destroyed to stop your worship services. These things happen regularly to fellow believers living in some parts of the world.

God knows about these things yet remains sovereign and in control despite these circumstances. His purposes cannot be destroyed by the wickedness of hostile people.

God promises to pay back evil at the right time and in the right way if we wait on Him to do this. While waiting, God asks us to forgive our enemies and choose to love those who hurt us by giving them His own unfailing love. Although the journey of recovery may be sensitive and long, the Bible teaches that we must continually deal with any bitterness that may spring up towards another person. This is God-honouring, releases us from great unhappiness within, and best of all, is fully achievable through Christ working in our lives.

After God had given David's army so many successes in battle, certain enemies who had not yet battled against David, thought that overthrowing him was very enticing. David already had a large number of defeated cities and kings paying tribute to Israel, which would become theirs if they in turn defeated David in battle.

The Ammonites would have been wiser not to provoke David. They had no army and their leaders had to call on surrounding nations to hire their soldiers for battle. When Joab saw how the Ammonites had set up their battle plan, he divided the Israelite army between himself and his brother to fight from different fronts. This frightened the Ammonite army.

Hired soldiers do not sacrifice their lives if they see the enemy is too strong and the chances of victory are small. So they fled.

But then, the combined armies of the different kings in Syria rallied against David again to fight, but we see God giving the Israelite army victory once again. Then the defeated Syrian kings had to serve David and became afraid to help the Ammonites any more. The complete result of the Ammonites insulting David's delegation ended with about fifty thousand men losing their lives in these two battles.

Why did the Ammonites insult David? The Ammonite princes judged David's delegation by their own fears, ideas and standards before listening to David's ambassador.

A middle-aged school teacher decided to take a road trip across America and see all the places she had taught about for years. She drove a truck towing a caravan many miles by herself. One day, the water pump on the truck broke and the teacher was stranded. Her breakdown caused a large traffic jam. No one seemed interested in helping her out, so she prayed to the Lord: "Please God, send me an angel ... and preferably one with mechanical experience." Within a few minutes, a Hell's Angel motorcyclist, complete with tattoos over his arms, rode up to her. The school teacher was too afraid to say anything as the man fixed the truck. When finished, she plucked up the courage to express her grateful thanks and had a conversation with him. He told her, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

It is true that often, we look at people and quickly form an opinion about them. But they may not be at all like what we think they are. The Scriptures don't tell us of a secret or false motivation for David to send his delegation to King Hanun.

Just like the Ammonite princes, we also are not to judge other people's motives for what they're doing. Only God can know such things that lie within people's hearts.

Is your life full of bad things like cheating and stealing, angry outbursts, telling lies and harming your family? Some people with these problems resolve to start again. They try to be extra good, always tell the truth and be kind to others, at least when circumstances suit them. And this works – for about half a day. No one can change the fruit of their lives from bad to good fruit by trying extra hard; only Christ can renew and change each heart from within.

Sadly, everyone from Adam and Eve and all of us thereafter, have done bad things. We do these things because our inherited human nature from our parents is bad. It takes a miracle from the Lord Jesus Christ to change this human nature. Christ will give anyone a new godly nature if they desire this.

Do you believe that the Lord Jesus, God's perfect Son, came to earth to die for you and pay for your wrongdoing? If you don't know enough about this, ask some person you know who is a Christian.

If you do believe that the Lord Jesus has paid the penalty of your sin, ask Him today to be your Saviour and Lord. Pray to Him about all your problems and wait on Him to show you the right way to go. There is no problem too small or sin too big that Jesus doesn't want to hear about from you.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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