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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1510 ~ David and Bathsheba.

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

Twenty years ago in the United States of America, a man took a lady friend on a picnic. On the way, he stopped at a fast food place to buy something for lunch. The man was given a bucket with a lid on it, which he placed in the back of his car before driving off.

When the man and lady arrived at the picnic ground, they set out the drinks and bucket of food. When the man pulled off the lid, he got a big surprise! Instead of a cooked chicken, he stared at bags and bags of money. The couple packed up straight away and returned to the store. Meanwhile, the manager of the store had been frantically searching for the lost money that needed to be banked that day. When the man arrived and returned all the money to the manager, she was very relieved. The manager wanted to say thank you for the man's honesty by putting a picture of the man and his lady in the newspaper. But in response, the man told her in an undertone that he did not want any public recognition at all. The lady with him was actually another man's wife. This man had honesty, but no integrity.

King David had been very successful in battles with the enemy tribes around about Israel. God had enabled David to conquer them. Then they had to pay David tribute each year. In the Bible book of 2 Samuel, chapters 8 and 10, there are listed the many battles that were fought by the Israelite army.

In today's Bible Adventure story, we learn that instead of going to battle with the Ammonites, David stayed back in Jerusalem and sent his commanding officer Joab to take charge instead. This was one of the biggest mistakes of David's life. Today, our hero David showed that he did not always obey God's laws and by not doing so, he destroyed his own integrity.

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

God's plan for human beings, established in the Garden of Eden, was for one man to be married to one woman. A husband and wife are to be faithful to each other for life. This pattern was established again when the only survivors of Noah's world-wide flood were four men each married to his one wife. There are many passages of Scripture that show great unhappiness in families when the man had more than one wife. Abraham, Jacob and Samuel's father were all examples of this.

After the Jews had returned from exile in Babylon around 450BC, the Jews always had just one wife and by the time of Christ, even the Greeks and Romans had adopted this "one man, one woman" principle too.

Although King Saul and Nabal had one wife each, King David had a large number of wives. This was contrary to God's rule in Deuteronomy, Chapter 17.

David had no excuse to be away from battle by himself. If he had been attending to his role as a father, including teaching and training his children, he would have been too busy to be lazing around on the roof top looking down at another man's wife. Temptation often comes when we are not productively doing something. There is an old English expression: "Idle fingers get into mischief". So if your circumstances find you with a lot of spare time, ask the Lord for some God-honouring work to do to fill up your hours. For elderly people, this might be a committed life of prayer.

David had so lost sight of God's commandments that he did not worry when he discovered Bathsheba was the wife of one of his most faithful soldiers. In the Bible book of Exodus, Chapter 20, the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses, say:
"Do not commit adultery. Do not desire another man's house; do not desire his wife."

Because David was king, he had grown to think he was the most important person there was and could have anything he wanted. When David took Bathsheba to his bed and had sexual relations with her, he committed adultery with her. He had no right as king or otherwise to have her in his bed. Bathsheba belonged to Uriah.

God hates the breakdown of marriage. In Malachi, Chapter 2, the Lord God of Israel says he hates divorce, marital separation and violence against wives. Each husband should be faithful to his wife and she to him. Soon after Bathsheba's visit to the palace, she discovered she was pregnant with David's child.

When David knew this, he resorted to the same tactic that Adam and Eve had done in the Garden of Eden: he tried to cover up his sin. He sent for Bathsheba's husband Uriah from the battlefield and ordered him to go home to his wife. But David's command was contrary to Uriah's duties as a soldier when engaged in battle. Uriah did not go home. David then got Uriah drunk with wine and tried to send him home again. But Uriah would not violate his soldier's duties. So as a last resort, David sent instructions to Joab for Uriah to be killed in the battle.

David's conscience had become so hardened that he did not find the news of Uriah's death to be upsetting. David had achieved his goal and he now could legally take Bathsheba as another of his wives. Of course God saw all this. In Psalm 44, it says that God knows all our secret thoughts. Also mentioned in Psalm 94, wicked people were doing terrible things but they said: "The Lord does not see us." But the Psalmist responds with: "When will you ever learn? God made our ears – can't he hear? He made our eyes – can't he see?" God will punish wickedness and David can expect to be punished too. David's sin is recorded in the Bible as a warning to every reader.

What is our conscience? Human beings have a sense of right and wrong with regard to thoughts and actions. Have you ever done something wrong and felt very guilty about it afterwards? That is your conscience working and speaking to you. If you love the Lord Jesus, confess the wrongdoing immediately to clear your conscience. Sometimes, however, this may involve putting things right with someone else first.

We can also reject what our conscience is telling us to do. The Apostle Paul told Timothy in the Bible book of 1 Timothy, Chapter 1: "Keep your faith and a good conscience. Some people have not listened to their conscience and have made a ruin of their faith." King David had ceased to listen to his conscience or he would not have had anything to do with another man's wife.

It is also possible to destroy our consciences completely. When the Apostle Paul was speaking about false teachers in 1 Timothy, Chapter 4, he spoke of the false teachers having dead consciences as if they had been burnt with a hot iron.

Before yielding to any temptation, we need to look back and recall God's goodness to us. Looking ahead, we need to remember the price of sin. Looking around, think of all the people who may be affected by what we do. Then looking up, ask God for the strength to say "No" to temptations as they come. In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 10, it says: "God keeps his promise, and He will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, He will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out." God wants us to live to please Him every day, and in every way.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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