



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1514 ~ Absalom's Army Defeated.

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

Throughout World War II when Europe was occupied by Nazi Germany, ordinary citizens bravely hid Jews and escaped prisoners-of-war in their own homes. They did this at great personal risk. If they were caught helping such people, they themselves would be killed too. The rescued fugitives were hidden in small rooms and moved from safe house to safe house during the night to avoid detection by the Nazi authorities. Despite such care given to them by strangers, only 25% of these fugitives reached safety and could live a new life free from the fear of capture and beyond the struggles of war.

In today's Bible Adventure from the Bible book of 2 Samuel, Chapter 17, King David received a message late at night from his advisor Hushai in Jerusalem.

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

David was now in his 50s. His son Absalom was no longer a child and could not be treated like one, especially after he systematically planned a bold rebellion against the authority of his father's government. In this civil war that Absalom caused, many soldiers lost their lives. Absalom seemed to lack understanding of the harm he would bring to his followers and all Israel as he made it his quest to become the next king of Israel immediately.

Impatience drove Absalom on. If he had waited his time, however, until David was old and weak, then this overthrow of David's kingship might nearly have happened. Only possible, that is, if we leave out the God-factor. God had never wanted Absalom to be king at all. Just because Absalom was the first-born son, it did not mean he was God's choice to be the next king.

Some parents find it hard to realize their children have grown to adulthood and are now making decisions for themselves. If a foolish decision is made, then the whole family has to face the consequences of that decision. Absalom was guilty of treason and deserved to be killed. David, however, seemed to want to save Absalom from the consequences of his own foolishness. Instead, he continued to treat him indulgently like a child. The Bible book of Proverbs, Chapter 13, says: "If you don't punish your children, you don't love them. If you do love them you will correct them." And in Chapter 29, it says: "Correction and discipline are good for children. If they have their own way, they will make their mothers ashamed of them."

Leaders in public office can be so busy that they forget to spend time caring for their own families. There were warning signs that David should have seen in Absalom prior to his very public revolt in the city of Hebron while proclaiming himself king. One clue was Absalom obtaining a chariot and horses for himself and an escort of fifty men. Fifty men make up a very large body guard! Absalom also had a habit of seeking the attention of the visitors coming into Jerusalem wanting justice over important court cases. Absalom showing them extreme affection to gain their favour. Absalom did this for 4 years. Why did the king not know? Maybe he was told but ignored the matter ...

Have you ever thought about “What if?” A series of children’s books was written whereby the reader was given 2 choices at the end of each chapter for how the story should continue. If King David had been less indulging of Absalom’s activities, David would have acted sooner. He would have called Absalom in for an explanation of the memorial pillar he had placed in the King’s Valley as a monument to be remembered by, since he had no sons.

What would have happened if David knew more about Absalom’s intentions? For one, he could have led his army against Absalom in Judah before Absalom and his men had time to march to Jerusalem? This would have saved many lives. It is always easier to be wise when looking back in hindsight. After some event has happened we can torment ourselves by thinking the circumstances through in our minds and wondering how things would have turned out if we’d done something differently.

Because David favoured Absalom, he did not set boundaries to control Absalom’s behaviour. In Proverbs, Chapter 20, it says: “Even children show what they are by what they do; you can tell if they are honest and good.” In the New Testament book 1 Timothy, Chapter 5, the Apostle Paul taught church people to follow his instructions “without showing any prejudice or favour to anyone in anything you do.”

When parents show favouritism for one of their children over the others, much bitterness and competitiveness between the children can result. Ill feelings towards family members can cause drastic problems within a family, with some children reaching adult life not wanting to have anything to do with one another. A man once fostered so much competition between his two teenage sons in the swimming pool that one left home to live in another country, never speaking to his father again.

Did you know that God has a plan for each person's life? There is no need to be envious of someone else's talents and abilities. Don't compare your achievements against what your friends do. Each person who trusts their whole life to the Lord Jesus Christ and relies on Him each day will not need to be evaluating their performance against another's. For the believer in Christ, the goal is to be found as a good and faithful servant when it comes time to leave earth for heaven.

Have you believed in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ to the point where you accept Him as your Saviour and Lord? Are you free from the penalty of your wrongdoing? Then trust and rely on Jesus to help you live for Him every day for the rest of your life.

Don't forget, however, that becoming a faithful servant takes time and experience, similar to the building of a house. First, the house foundations are laid. This is like faith in Christ, who is willing and able to save you. Then come the house walls and roof, which are like living a holy consecrated life day by day, brick by brick. Some people only want the foundations, but where will they shelter when the trials and storms of life come? James, Chapter 2, says: "Faith without actions is useless." Other people want to have the walls and roof only. These are like the Pharisees who sought after holiness without the foundations of faith.

Hebrews, Chapter 11, says: "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Do you live in faith? Do you believe that a living faith is found in Christ only? His Holy Spirit living in a Christian's heart will guide that person's steps into holy living day by day. Pray to Him today for those Christians struggling to reject the world's influence in their lives.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Perry Coleman singing "Fear Not."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
