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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1515 ~ Absalom flees from David.

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

Parents who are rearing children know that there are times when real love feels quite unloving. A pastor had an unmarried daughter who gave birth to a baby. She and the new baby came to live with the pastor and his family. The pastor set new house rules in place to curb his wilful daughter's behaviour. One night, she took the baby out and did not return by a set time. When she finally rang the front doorbell, the pastor went to the door to see who was there. He moved aside the curtains, saw his daughter, pointed to his watch and then went back to bed. She stood outside, continuing to bang on the door and shout for a while, before leaving for a friend's place to spend the rest of the night. The next day when the daughter returned home, she repented and was willing thereafter to obey her father's house rules.

Wilful Absalom did not love his father. If he had, he would not have tried to kill David and his faithful soldiers in a battle for the throne. Absalom was full of self confidence and pride. He was not a soldier himself but nevertheless, was leading a large army out against King David's experienced warriors. David was persuaded to stay for this battle and did not accompany them. Yet when they marched out of the city, David called out to his commanders not to harm his son in the fray.

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

After David's army had left for battle against Absalom, David waited anxiously for news of how things were going and what had happened to Absalom. As one writer asked: What does anxiety do? It does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow but it does empty today of its strength. We need to keep as calm as possible during trials. Prayer is indeed a great comfort. Then when decisions need to be made, we can think clearly and the Lord can safely guide us.

Was David right to ask his commanders to spare Absalom from harm? It certainly was not justice. In the midst of battle, why should Absalom be taken prisoner when every other soldier was laying down his life for his leader? If Absalom was taken as King David's prisoner, he most certainly would not have been punished the way he deserved. Why wouldn't David punish such an offence as rebellion? David's past sins and his inaction regarding his family's lawbreaking caused him do nothing to control or discipline his children. Instead, he passively accepted whatever happened as though it was an ongoing punishment from God.

Absalom's army was not trained to fight in forest combat. They didn't know who was and wasn't the enemy, so they killed many on their own side. Discipline and organisation was also lacking, while David's soldiers had a battle plan. They divided into 3 groups to attack at different places. Discipline was needed for Absalom's army because they were fighting experienced warriors. Absalom as a result was not the right person to lead an army. How could he be a good leader if he first hadn't served under one, like his father David?

Absalom rebelled against Israel's greatest king and against God. If a person does not self-discipline themselves, then discipline will be imposed by someone else. It is through self discipline that good character is produced.

David seemed to be in denial that Absalom had done wrong. People sometimes are. In Soviet Russia in the 1930s and 40s, dictator Joseph Stalin directly and indirectly had part in the murder of 30 million people. In declassified documents released to the public, today it is evident to all that Stalin had signed orders for his feared secret police chief to carry out human purges. Stalin's grandson, however, has claimed that his grandfather was no killer and took a journalist to court to sue for compensation. This type of trying to rewrite history is not helpful. If the shameful lessons of history are forgotten, they will one day be repeated.

After Joab and his soldiers had killed Absalom, they threw his body into a deep pit and covered it with a high mound of stones. Then the battle was over and Joab sent his Ethiopian slave to report the battle outcome to King David. After the slave had set out, Ahimaaz, a priest's son, begged permission from Joab to run to the king with news of the battle also. At first Joab did not approve but he was at last persuaded. Along the way, Ahimaaz outran the slave and reached the king first. He directing David to give God thanks for his victory, and in so doing this, the runner prepared him for the news of his son's death. The same process can relate to us today. The more grateful we are to God for all His mercies, the more prepared we are to receive and accept bad news.

When David's soldiers returned from winning the battle, they heard that David was grieving for his son Absalom. So they crept into the city, as though humiliated in battle. Joab was very angry with King David and did not speak courteously to him. Sometimes it was left up to Joab to fix David's problems. To persuade the grieving David to return to his public duty, Joab threatened to organise David's army to abandon him. And it worked. David went out and greeted the soldiers, thanking them for their good success.

Good manners are to be expected from all who claim to be Christians. Once in a city office block two brothers, leaders in a large church organisation, had a shouting match over something. People a good distance away heard them having a blazing row. This type of thing brings shame on the good name of the Lord Jesus. The event was gossiped around churches in a wide area. One of the brothers claimed he had more temper in one of his little fingers than most people had in their entire bodies. What a terrible way to justify and excuse a lack of self-control! When we sin, God wants us to confess it and forsake it, never to justify it. You can measure the quality of a person's faith by how they behave.

Did you know that love and justice must go together? David wanted love without justice. Joab wanted justice without love. Only on the cross of Christ do love and justice meet and are satisfied. God so loved mankind that He did not keep his own precious Son for Himself. Instead, He sent sinless Jesus to die a criminal death on a cruel cross for the whole world's sins, so God's love and justice would be satisfied.

Can you see how great a gift God has given to us? Our freedom from the penalty of our sins cost God His only Son. In overflowing gratitude for this, thank Him today.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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