

BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1546 ~ An Axe Head Floats.

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

During his ministry to Israel, God's prophet Elisha did many miracles to benefit the people. Do such miracles happen today? A miracle can be explained as an event taking place against the odds of impossibility. For those who pray in faith to God, there are many miracles to be told. People who don't believe in modern miracles, however, overlook the small unexpected things that happen simply because someone prayed to God.

Some people explain away such events as chance or coincidence. But they never realise that prayer to God is what precedes such remarkable happenings. We need God to reach out and break the rules of nature to help us to trust in Him. Miracles are always possible for those who pray and believe.

Elisha was willing to help the people of Israel in times of trouble and disaster. Today we are looking at three of Elisha's miracles that are found in II Kings, chapters 4 and 6.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

It's believed that Elisha performed more miracles than any other person in the Bible except for the Lord Jesus Christ Himself while He walked on the earth.

Elisha called himself the servant of God. The Lord Jesus called Himself the Son of God and Son of man. Yet it wasn't the Lord Jesus' primary purpose to perform miracles. He came to be the sinless Saviour for all human beings. The miracles Jesus did do, set Him apart as someone who was controlled by God's Holy Spirit inside Him. Like Elisha, Jesus did miracles to help individuals and groups of people.

When Jesus lived on earth, the religious leaders of Israel were tied up in a complicated system of rules about what should be done and not done. The leaders expected everyone to obey their rules. When Jesus put the needs of suffering people ahead of these rules, He healed them and caused the religious leaders to be very displeased. In those days, the rules came first. It was legalism.

Some people find that keeping strictly to rules gives them a sense of achievement, and in time, pride. This importance is followed by judging and looking down on others they think aren't doing so well. There is no love or compassion in legalism. Since the Lord Jesus died as a substitute for people's sin, we can't have any relationship with our loving Heavenly Father by trying to keep the Old Testament laws. The only way to Him is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The religious leaders of the day challenged Jesus and His authority to heal those in distress. He replied in John's Gospel, Chapter 10: "Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." As true legalists, the religious leaders took up rocks to stone Jesus to death. Jesus then challenged them to tell Him of which good deed or act of mercy would they stone Him for.

The leaders' witness to miracles brought accountability to them. The more they knew, the more they will now be held responsible for. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 11, the Lord Jesus began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been performed, because the people of Israel didn't repent and their hearts were not changed. Jesus said: "If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the Day of Judgment than for you."

The disciples of the Lord Jesus also had questions for Him about the miracles He did. Following Jesus' statement that He was the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one can come to the Heavenly Father except through Him, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father. In part of his answer in John, Chapter 14, Jesus said: "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves."

In John's Gospel, Chapter 20, it says: "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." Miracles are thus a basis for faith in Christ.

A defeated emperor was sent into exile and the empire that he had previously built up was lost. He noted that all empires, with the exception of the Lord Jesus' kingdom, were founded by force. Jesus alone founded his empire on love. Love for Him has inspired millions of people who have never seen Him, to spread out over the world to tell others what a wonderful Saviour Jesus is!

Have you experienced any miracles in your life yet? The most important one is the act of faith to trust the Lord Jesus as Who He said He is – the King of kings and the Lord of lords. This trust brings joy of a new life after one genuinely turns away from all known sin.

Is Jesus the Lord of your life? He'd like to be but you have to willingly open your life to Him. Jesus tolerates no rivals or idols for your heart affections, so turn your back on all other gods, ambitions and desires. If you haven't already done so, ask Jesus for His miracle of salvation to give you a heart of life and love for God. And may the miracle of the new spiritual life in Christ be yours today.

MUSIC - <u>Integrity Music</u>.

That was Monique Donnelly singing "Now is the day of salvation."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >