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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1552 ~ An Heir hidden in the Temple.

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

For many centuries, the boys living in a family learnt from their father the skills of earning a living to provide for their family. In this way, a farmer trained his sons to work the land and a baker taught his sons how to make good bread. So we have the English expression: “Following in his father’s footsteps.” However, the personality weaknesses in the father and his mistakes were often the examples his sons followed too. This brought a warning in the expression: “Like father, like son.” The only way to break a bad father-son cycle is for the father and the son to individually surrender their minds and their spirits to God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

In today’s Bible Adventure, we can use both expressions when referring to the kings of Judah. When godly King Jehoshaphat left his crown to his firstborn son, Jehoram, this 32-year old man made a decision not to follow in his father’s ways. Although the Scriptures give us no indication that Jehoram and his brothers were ever enemies, as soon as Jehoram was given kingship, he killed them all. Jehoram expected his father’s army commander to kill his brothers without any justification. Respect for God’s laws like “Do not commit murder” had disappeared from Jehoram’s mind.

Many people are like Jehoram. They get into a position of power and they think they are above God and His ways. With the great control they hold, they quickly forget that God is watching and will punish their wrongdoing. Jehoram was king for only eight years before he died of an incurable disease. During those relatively few years, the nation of Judah was ruined by the surrounding nations. After Jehoram's death, his son Ahaziah reigned for one year. Walking in his father's footsteps, Ahaziah followed in his father's wicked ways and was slain.

In the Old Testament book of Proverbs, Chapter 14, it says: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

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

How should we respond when asked to do something that opposes God's ways? Should King Jehoshaphat's army commander have retired to his lands when Jehoram asked him to do some wicked things? He didn't do this – he kept his position by doing what ever Jehoram told him to. This commander may have been killed too if he showed any disloyalty to the new king. Even in the face of death, how important should it be to live for truth? Can we dismiss and excuse our wrongdoing because we were 'just following orders'?

This was one of the great defences given at a trial of war crime leaders following World War II. Such a defence of "just following orders" was not allowed for 21 chief men of the Nazi war machine. They broke the rules of war and were thus punished. Each human being has a duty of care to protect and help other human beings in their time of need. In some countries, it is a legal obligation to help anyone who may be in need of medical assistance. The Lord Jesus put it so simply when He said: "Do to others what you would have them do to you." This is known as 'The Golden Rule' for living. It sums up the meaning of the Law of Moses and the teachings of the Old Testament prophets.

As we travel along life's journey, there will be times when our loyalty to Christ will be tested too. In Luke's Gospel, Chapter 14, the Lord Jesus said: "Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well." Our obedience to God must come first.

A young Christian man believed God was calling him to serve as a missionary in India. It was 1805 and he was already engaged to be married to an English lady whose health problems would not cope with India's hotter climate. Although these two people loved each other dearly, they decided to break off their engagement so that the man could do God's work where he had been appointed to do so. Their hearts were heavy as they read from Psalm 10: "Why are you so far away, O Lord? Why do you hide yourself when we are in trouble?" Often God does not answer the question "Why?" but God had great plans for that young man. He travelled to India alone and translated the New Testament into two languages within the next seven years before he died. Because this man followed God's plans for him, millions of people could then read the Scriptures in their own languages.

The Lord Jesus had twelve apostles. Ten of them proved their loyalty to Christ by being executed for no crime but only for doing His work. Some people pretend they aren't committed to Jesus even if they are, so they can keep society's approval and avoid any hostility.

The Lord Jesus said those who do not own and honour Him before people in society will be denied by Jesus when they stand before God and the angels. It's a big mistake to plan keeping silent even when a testimony about Christ will bring persecution and ridicule. Many times in the Scriptures, God's Holy Spirit has provided wise words to defuse some angry situation just in the moment of need.

God promises His Spirit will give the words to say if we are prepared to speak on behalf of the Lord. The very worst Christ's enemies can do to a believer is to destroy their physical body. When death is passed, believers are then welcomed into heaven to be with God forever.

To those who loyally follow Jesus Christ, He won't permit us to bear more than we can handle. He will also comfort us in our trials. His Holy Spirit will help us to respond to our opponents in a gracious way that honours Christ. He'll work through our difficult situations for His glory and our good. God's aim is to build His character in our hearts. Trials expose any sin habits in a believer's life. When these are confessed and surrendered to God His Spirit will be enabled to transform us into Christ's likeness.

Jesus taught His disciples the truth that one day He will be the obvious ruler of the universe. Then everyone will see and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. For those people who refuse to submit to Him in their lifetime on earth, it will be too late to change their minds and loyalties after death. Such unbelievers will bow before Him as defeated enemies rather than grateful friends. Are you ready for the Lord Jesus to return and judge the earth? Is your life and lifestyle fully honouring to Jesus? If not, ask Him to be your Saviour and cleanse you from hidden sin while you're able to respond.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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