



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1584 ~ Nehemiah's Night Visit.**

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

When the Lord Jesus lived in Israel around 2,000 years ago, He attracted large crowds of people who listened to His teaching and asked for healing from their various diseases. One man had a great desire to see what Jesus looked like. This man had two major handicaps in reaching his goal. The first one was that he earned his living from collecting taxes from the Jewish people and giving it to the hated Roman overlords who controlled the country. Because this tax collector didn't have to account for every bit of tax that he collected, he, like all other tax collectors, added more to take some extra for himself. Yet he was a Jewish man and so was hated by the Jewish people as a cheat and a thief. They didn't want him to stand around in a crowd next to them while they waited for Jesus to arrive.

The man's second handicap came from his small height. He hadn't grown as tall as most of the men living in that region. Even if he were welcomed to be part of a crowd waiting to see Jesus, he wouldn't see anything but the back of the man in front of him. To overcome both these handicaps, the man found out which way the Lord Jesus was travelling by that day. He then ran ahead and climbed up into a large tree. Sitting up high among the leaves, this tax collector thought he would be able to see everything but not be noticed by anyone.

Not all handicaps people face in life are physical, like that tax collector's. In today's Bible Adventure, Nehemiah had just travelled from Babylon to Jerusalem with the king of Babylon's blessing. But Nehemiah soon found a great handicap which kept the local Israelites from advancing their work of rebuilding Jerusalem.

Nehemiah travelled around Jerusalem's broken down walls secretly by night to see the exact condition of the walls. He didn't want to speak overconfidently but he did believe that God had sent him to the city to fix the walls and buildings. Nehemiah's great handicap was the big discouragement among the people. They had tried in times past to rebuild the walls and their efforts had come to nothing. Why should they try again this time? We too, can try to do things in our own strength and our efforts seem to be wasted. In times like this, we need to commit everything to God and ask Him to guide us along each step of the way.

When Nehemiah spoke to the assembled people, he told them how God had led him up to that point. The people were very glad to hear that timber was already promised for the rebuilding project. They became willing to work under Nehemiah's leadership and get the job of rebuilding the city walls done.

The most important part of leadership is a vision for the future. Nehemiah clearly expressed his plans to others and had certainty that with God's help, all the people could work together and complete the project. He stirred the people's inspiration so that they too, could share his vision. They quickly saw Nehemiah was a man of prayer and willing to make big decisions. Until then and for a long time before, the people had no practical leadership and nothing worthwhile had resulted.

After Nehemiah spoke to them, the people also realised that such a large building project needed a full effort by every able-bodied person. Some could not decide to stand back and criticize those working or say they were too important to get their hands dirty. A writer once said: "Leaders are leaders because they are greater servants. The way up is down. The way to honour our Lord and Saviour is to serve. There is always room for one more servant."

Nehemiah encouraged the people to put God's work ahead of their own. A famous writer once said: "One of the highest of human duties is the duty of encouragement. It's easy to laugh at people's ideas or to pour cold water on their enthusiasm and discourage them. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a person going. Blessed is the person who speaks such a word."

In the years following the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, one co-worker with the Apostle Paul was Barnabas, whose name meant "son of encouragement." This man was really a Levite called Joseph from the island of Cyprus but because this man was friendly and encouraging in his ways, the apostles changed his name to Barnabas.

Everywhere Barnabas is spoken of in the New Testament, he is reported as speaking on someone's behalf. At the end of his life and still concerned for his own people, Barnabas returned to Cyprus to encourage the young church there. Barnabas paid the ultimate price for his faith as his fellow countrymen killed him there.

As it's said that if you want to change people without giving offence or arousing resentment, use encouragement.

A young man was asked to lead the singing for the first time at his church. As the people were singing, he didn't think they were singing very well, so he scolded them. He said something like: "This is the worst singing I have ever heard. I'm ashamed of you. Now, come on and let's do it better."

When he returned home, his father took him aside and told him something he never forgot. “You’ll never get people to sing better by scolding them and telling them how badly they’re doing. You have to tell them that they’re doing pretty well and you think they can do a little better.” That young man grew up to be a world famous choir conductor and through the years he was always known for his smile, encouragement and positive approach.

It seems that people have a way of becoming what we encourage them to be but not what we nag them to be.

What greater promise of encouragement can all believers in the Lord Jesus have than the one found in the 2nd book of Thessalonians, Chapter 2? It says: “May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and in His grace gave us unfailing courage and a firm hope, encourage you and strengthen you to always do and say what is good.”

Are you sure you belong in that company of people who trust the Lord Jesus with every moment of their lives? Make certain that you are today. Claim the words of Ephesians, Chapter 2: “For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift, so that no one can boast about it.”

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MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

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That was Mindy Harrah singing “Come to Me.”

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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