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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT: A1585 ~ Reorganized for Work.

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

A father by the name of Doctor Brown was surprised one day to find his son Jack home from school early. "Isn't there any football practice today, Jack?" he asked. "Yes, there is, but I'm not going to try out any more. I don't have any chance of making the team. I've been sitting out for a month although I have tried hard, but it's no use – I've not been chosen to play."

Doctor Brown seemed disappointed. "It doesn't matter whether you make the team or not, Jack, but it does matter that you tried your hardest to do something that you wanted to do."

"I did try!" said Jack uneasily.

"I don't believe it," replied his father. "You wanted to make the team, but you found that you were competing with boys a bit heavier or more skilful at the game than you are. Because you saw that the odds were against you, you quit. The odds can always be against you in everything you undertake in life. Does that mean that you are always going to give up?" To this, Jack never replied.

His father went on: "Every man who ever achieved anything really worthwhile did it in spite of tremendous odds. It doesn't matter if you never accomplish anything that the world counts great. But it does matter if you're going to lie down in the face of every difficulty. You need to develop the character that keeps on trying and doesn't give up. That's the way to win the victories of life." Jack headed for the door. "Maybe I won't make the team but it won't be my fault if I don't." Dr Brown smiled.

Today in our Bible Adventure, Nehemiah had also to talk the Israelite people into changing their attitude towards the work of building up Jerusalem's walls. They had to change from: "It can't be done," to "With God's help, we will do it!"

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

Nehemiah's work strategy was simple: he divided the work tasks so that every family knew what they were doing. Then families were grouped to work together on a particular section of the wall. Many worked on the wall nearest to their own house. This ensured people built the best wall they could to protect their families. In working this way, there were no disputes.

It's important for parents to establish a good work ethic in their children while they're young. There's a sense of satisfaction to be found in a job well done and children need to learn this for themselves.

A mother once left her two schoolboys to wash and dry the dishes from their evening meal. The younger boy decided to leave the dishes on the rack to dry off for a while before he started to wipe them and put them away. His older brother thought that his younger brother was missing out on part of his chores and that this wasn't fair. To counter the dishes partly drying by themselves, the older brother kept pouring water over them to keep them wet. It didn't take long for an argument to break out between the two boys and their mother to come running to see what the trouble was. Some people spend their whole lives looking around at what others aren't doing and then complaining that others are getting life far too easy. It's a joy for Christians to know that God has His own special plan for each believer in Christ. No one needs to be assessing what others are doing and giving it a grade as to how good it is. We're to do everything as for the Lord. And we certainly shouldn't dare to dedicate poor quality work to Him.

Developing character is a slow process. Character is not made in one crisis. When troubles come into our lives, the quality of our character is on display for all to see. A writer once said: "Character is something each of us must build for himself, out of the laws of God and nature, the examples of others, and - most of all – out of the trials and errors of daily life. Character is the total of thousands of small daily strivings to live up to the best that is in us."

The families building Jerusalem's walls had to persist in the task that they were doing. In the last years of his life, a British World War II prime minister known for his persistence and perseverance wrote these words: "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never – in nothing, great or small, large or unimportant – never give in; except to convictions of honour and good sense."

The words, "Never give in" or "Never give up" should encourage Christians to persist in what they're doing and live effective and successful Christian lives.

There are reasons why people do give up and we should be aware of these: It's easy to see when a person receives one trouble after another, life doesn't seem to be much fun. Such a person must cling to the Lord and recognize that their life here on earth is to be lived for God. Often, when a person becomes a believer in Christ, their problems increase and so do temptations to sin. The Lord Jesus said: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Some believers think that God should spare His children from troubles and accidents. If this were to happen, Christianity would be degraded. People would flock to churches to become Christians in the same way that they take out an insurance policy.

The Lord Jesus died on a cruel cross but overcame all His trials and difficulties. Because Jesus lives in all true believers in Him, He is able to provide us with the inner strength to persevere and overcome every trouble that confronts us. All we have to do is willingly believe what He says about Himself and His promises in the Bible while He provides the power and the ability for us to overcome the world.

Some people give up because they harbour doubts about the Bible in their minds. If these doubts aren't confronted and resolved, they can harden into unbelief. Unbelief is the sin of the world that separates people from God both in this life and the next if not dealt with. When doubts come into our minds, pray against them and resist the devil! Doubts are lies designed to cause us to focus on ourselves and not on Jesus Christ. Use Scripture to think on good things and ask God to reveal answers in His Word. Wait on the Lord quietly and when the time is right, seek out help from someone with greater Bible understanding than yourself.

Some people give up when persecution comes to them in various ways. In most countries of the world, Christians are in the minority and are often made fun of or attacked for their beliefs. It's foolishness to those who are perishing and arouses hate and anger in the hearts of those who resist God's Spirit. Yet there is great reward for believers who stand firm despite opposition and loss of freedom.

The world is becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians. The Bible is clear: we cannot have friendship with the world yet still have friendship with Christ. Our loyalty will be with one or the other. Can you sing with the hymn writer: "I'm not ashamed to own my Lord nor to defend His cause?"

Some people give in when they are covered with shame over some sin they have done. At the time, they thought the circumstances justified their behaviour but later, regretted their actions. Admit this sin to God without giving excuses and ask for His forgiveness.

Once you've done this, don't let your mind dwell on the past. In The Acts of the Apostles Chapter 3 it says: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out; so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Rejoice that God takes care of past mistakes and blots out the memory of all that you commit to Him. If we want to run our race of life well for Christ, we have to pray and persevere through the tough times, asking the Lord to keep us always true to Him.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.