



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1615 ~ Wine from Water.**

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

When missionaries travel into areas where the people there have no written language, they set about the big task of learning the spoken language first. When this is achieved, the missionaries try to put down on paper a set of symbols that represent the spoken sounds they're saying. Then the work of translating part of the Bible into the language of that tribe begins. It takes many years to get even one Gospel ready to print to give to the people. Then the people have to learn to read. Often a problem arises when there's no word in those people's experience that can be used to mean what the Bible says.

In the English language, we say: "I love ice cream"; "I love my dog"; "I love my family"; "I love God". There are many different meanings for the one word 'love'. In some languages, however, there's a different word for each of those four different instances. With the word 'wine', for example, there are 16 different words in Scripture which are all translated as 'wine' in English.

As grape juice is aged, the fermentation or breaking down of sugars in the juice turns to alcohol. The amount of alcohol content permitted in intoxicating drinks is regulated by a country's laws. Some grape juice drinks are sold after the alcohol content has been removed. In the days before different types of antiseptics were discovered to kill germs, alcohol by itself was used for dental and medical needs.

Does alcohol harm the human body? Yes, it does in many ways. Drinking too much shuts down a section of the brain which controls behaviour and common sense. The person often loses all social restraints and so says and does silly things. Some people can become very aggressive and want to fight others around them when they are drunk.

In a road test in Australia, people who had been given measured quantities of alcohol were tested for their ability to brake while driving. The more people drank, the less able they were to see a traffic hazard or apply the brakes. For this reason, airline pilots, bus drivers and the operators of certain types of machinery are forbidden to drink alcoholic drinks for a set period of time prior to working. If they're caught coming to work with alcohol in their bloodstream, it is instant dismissal from their job.

Alcohol is one of many addictive substances people become slaves to. Once hooked, a human body tends to crave for it more and more. A person can be driven to any low act like stealing, to get the money they need for more. A young person becomes addicted to alcohol 10 times faster than the rate of a mature adult. This is why in some countries, drinking before a person reaches the age of 21 years is illegal.

People with alcohol addiction tend to expect other people to provide for them, instead of going out and working for their own living.

In today's Bible Adventure, a major crisis at a wedding in the town of Cana just a few miles northwest of Nazareth was put right by the Lord Jesus.

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This miracle was only recorded by John in his Gospel book in Chapter 2, and his brother James wasn't even present at the wedding. While the disciples of Jesus were very respectful of Jesus' mother, Mary, they didn't worship her. Mary herself pushed Jesus to do the miracle as He initially said it wasn't His time yet to do such things. By doing this miracle, Jesus broke the rules of nature to solve the problem of the bridegroom and his family, all of whom were probably close relatives of Jesus. However, once Jesus' power was openly displayed, His disciples' faith in Him was strengthened. Miracles still happen today for followers of the Lord Jesus who pray and believe.

In the Old Testament, strong drink was denied to the Israelites when wandering in the wilderness so they would know that the Lord was their God. The priests were not permitted to drink wine or intoxicating drink while doing their duties in the Tabernacle or Temple. Samson's mother was warned not to drink strong drink while she was expecting Samson. And Samson himself was dedicated to God and abstained from all such drinks.

In Proverbs, Chapter 31, it says: "It is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted."

Daniel, as one of the great leaders of the Israelites in the Old Testament, decided very early in his long and blessed career that he wouldn't touch the king of Babylon's wine. It took some effort to stand up against the rule expected of him by others in favour of what God wanted Jewish people to eat. John the Baptist also didn't drink wine or strong drink.

So here at last is the big question: "Did Jesus turn the water in the purification jars into intoxicating wine, de-alcoholised wine or great-tasting grape juice?" As Jesus knew the Scriptures and how strong drink brought shame on famous men like Noah and Lot, it's less likely that those jars were filled with anything harmful to other people.

In Proverbs, Chapter 20, it says: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” And in Proverbs, Chapter 23, the questions are asked as to who has troubles, sorrows, contentions, complaints, wounds without cause and redness of eyes? And the answer is given: “Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things.”

Hosea, Chapter 4, says: “Harlotry (or prostitution) and wine and new wine take away the heart and the mind and the spiritual understanding.” The Lord Jesus came to gather in the sinners and as they followed Him, He transformed them into saints who were ready for heaven.

The Apostle Paul said in Ephesians, Chapter 5: “Do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (which means ‘indulgence in alcohol and other pleasures’) but be filled with the Spirit.” Titus in his short book, also urged the older people to speak sound doctrine, to be good examples for the young people and not to be heavy drinkers of wine.

In Romans, Chapter 14, it speaks about not putting a stumbling block in the way of weak Christians: “Let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way. It’s good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.”

In some churches, there’s a strict abstinence rule regarding the drinking of all strong drinks for members. This is done to maintain a positive position for those who have recovered from an addiction to alcohol. One man who was a reformed alcoholic, found it very hard when he discovered that the communion glasses at his church were filled with intoxicating wine. He thus felt that he couldn’t participate in the symbols of remembrance of the Lord’s death at communion services.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, when a city in the United States had a big evangelistic crusade, the success of the week-long meetings was judged by how many drinking saloons and bars closed for lack of customers.

Why is it unwise even to have a glass of wine with every meal? Addictions can creep in on people. Habits can form without being noticed and when challenged, people loudly protest that they don't have an addiction. There is a simple test to find out the truth: No drinking any alcoholic drinks for three weeks. This test can turn into a struggle of will power and shows how an addiction can hide away for many years.

Because we live in a very addict-prone culture, we must be more careful about our personal habits than people of earlier times did. Today's society produces addicts more than any other in history. And worse still, addicts produce addicts.

Why is this? In Australia, for example, the culture is heavily orientated towards entertainment to relieve the pressures of highly-stressed lives which we live. People are anxious about many things and look for an escape rather than a realistic account of their lifestyle and problems. No longer are moral values held highly by society as they were in past generations either.

On top of this, families move house much more frequently than they did in the past. We hardly know the names of the people living next door, let alone to do a kind deed for them. So many friendships formed today are shallow and not long-lasting. Children are growing up without a sense of belonging.

Is there a solution? There is no easy way except for a complete change of lifestyle, one that's based on Bible-living. The first thing to learn is discernment. Are all of the things we do really necessary? Is there usually a lot of noise in the background? Are we trying to do three things at once? To sort out the important things, here are some guidelines:

We need to develop God's virtues in our lives. A virtue is moral goodness or a positive moral quality. The major virtues are prudence or being cautious, discreet and sensible, justice, courage, temperance, and the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love.

The lesser known virtues are: discernment, blamelessness, truthfulness, modesty, respect and worship, and contentment and generosity.

When we take God's values with us wherever we go, we will be less stressed and less needy to look for an escape to provide some relief from the pressures in our lives. How do we start this? First we have to realize that we can't do these things without outside help. And help is always available from the Lord Jesus Christ. Admit you have sinned against Him in these matters and ask Him to take over your life and recognize it for His purposes.

Then there will be times of needed silence to pray and worship Him. Jesus often went away at night alone to pray to His Father in heaven. Reading passages from the Scriptures will teach you God's ways that you should follow. He'll speak to you through His Holy Spirit about those things which are not pleasing to Him in your life. Meet together with other believers in the Lord Jesus in worship and in loving fellowship to praise and thank Jesus for all He's doing for you. Others will be able to encourage you to keep going, even when times seem tough.

Recently, a blind lady was sitting in a ladies' church group in the Philippines, listening to a CD of New Testament stories recorded in her own language. This CD had been given out prior to the launch of the New Testament in this language.

The ladies were listening to Luke, Chapter 18, where Jesus healed a blind man. When the blind lady heard that the blind man called out to Jesus, she shouted out loudly as well: "Me too, I want to be healed."

The other ladies told her to be quiet as they wanted to hear their reading. Yet when Jesus asked the blind man what he wanted, and he replied, “Lord, I want to see,” the blind lady again shouted out in her own language, “Me too, I want to see!” To the ladies’ amazement, when the recording told that the blind man proclaimed, “I can see!” the blind lady also declared she too could see! She was in fact healed. This incident sparked great excitement and honour to the Lord among all the believers who heard about it. Jesus knows our every need and doesn’t leave us to struggle with life alone. Please call on Him today.

Here’s a verse to live by: Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 2: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

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

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