



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1623 ~ The Death of John.

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

About 15 years ago, a world-famous women's clothing fashion designer went to Paris for the launch of his autumn clothes collection. The outfits he'd designed were very conservative and he was asked why. He thought that near-nudity hadn't brought women much happiness. So he had created styles that didn't show much of a woman's skin, which was once known as modesty.

The word 'modesty' applies to more than clothing and for character, it means 'not excessively proud or boastful'. A modest woman should not say, do or wear anything that would cause other people to think that she was a morally-loose person or unrefined in character. Her clothing and manner should not attract attention from men for the wrong reasons.

When women dress contrary to the rule of modesty, they give excuse for unwholesome thoughts in the minds of those who look at them. Any young lady who oversteps this rule makes herself liable to misunderstanding and insult, even though she may not have intended to do so. There was an old rule in society which said: 'The more bare skin, a woman shows the more attention she wants.'

God is completely against public nakedness and semi-nudity. In Genesis, Chapter 3, after Adam and Eve had sinned they became aware that they were naked. They tried to clothe themselves by sewing fig leaves together and hanging them around their loins. Even despite wearing the fig leaves, Adam still told God that he was naked. Once God had pronounced judgment against their sin, God made tunics of skin and clothed them. These tunics would have likely covered them from their shoulders to their knees.

In Exodus, Chapter 28, God gave Moses instructions about the garments to be worn by the priests. As well as tunics and turbans, the priests on duty were to wear linen trousers reaching from their thighs or upper legs to their waist to cover their bare skin.

While out fishing, Peter recognized that though he could fish in the relative privacy of his boat on the sea without outer garments, he re clothed himself before going ashore to meet the Lord. We cannot dismiss these standards set by God when attempting to make a Biblical definition of a person, either male or female, for wearing sufficient clothing.

In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 5, the Lord Jesus gave warning about men lusting after women and how wrong it is. He said: "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Godly women are to dress modestly and be discreet about their behaviour.

Today's Bible Adventure focuses on a birthday party. While many people have a party for their birthday each year in countries all around the world, it wasn't always the case. Centuries ago, only rich and important people like rulers gave a birthday feast for their nobles, high officials and chief men. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 14, Herod Antipas the district ruler, gave a big birthday party.

When the party was in full swing and everyone was enjoying themselves, Antipas's stepdaughter came into the banquet hall to provide entertainment by doing a solo dance for the crowd. One rule of those Eastern nations was to keep their females from public view. For this purpose they were confined to a particular section of the house, called the harem. If they went in public, they wore a veil over their face. Salome didn't follow the modesty rule. For her to appear in this manner before the court, it would appear that she followed the immoral ways of her mother.

The drama starts with Herodias planning how she could get rid of John the Baptist against her husband's wishes.

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

Herodias said she was insulted when John the Baptist told her husband the truth about their illegal marriage. She wanted revenge against the man, as though that would hide the facts and protect her. People often want to kill off the messenger of the truth rather than to do something to set the things right.

Daily newspapers around the world have a column each day with an obituary. This is a record of some important person's life, where and when born, and where and when the person died.

The achievements of that person's life are reported so they can be noted and sometimes it's possible to say "Thank you" prayers to God for their contribution to society.

After John's disciples left Jesus to report back to John in prison, Jesus gave the crowd around Him an obituary of John, even though he hadn't yet been killed. Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest of the prophets. When we think of Elisha and some of the other prophets, we wonder how the Lord Jesus came to His assessment. Yet when Judgment Day comes, how indefensible will be the chief priests and rulers and Pharisees. They heard both the greatest prophet and the Messiah speak, and they still didn't turn towards God. "Blessed," said Jesus in John, Chapter 20, "are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The birthday party turned into a nightmare for Herod Antipas. All the wine he had consumed made him unwise with his words. Offering a teenager, and only a girl at that, up to half of his kingdom as a reward for a dance, was utterly foolish. Yet Antipas was very sorry then that he'd made such an opening for his wife Herodias to get her way to take revenge. He didn't want to put John the Baptist to death because he feared the people who had accepted John as a prophet. These people may cause a riot. Was there any way he could save face in front of all his chief men, and save John from death too? But it turned out that it couldn't be the case. So finally, he ordered the execution of John the Baptist to take place immediately.

Death comes swiftly to some people and at an hour when they least expect it. Who would have thought that the ruler would have ordered an execution on his own birthday? John wouldn't have had any time to say fond farewells or even to pray a final prayer. We all need to be prepared and ready should our presence be required in heaven at very short notice.

After the death of John the Baptist, Herod heard a report about Jesus and His work among the people. Herod declared that John the Baptist had risen from the dead and that was why Jesus had the power to perform miracles. He may have said this to soothe his conscience over the unjust death of a godly man. When Jesus heard of John's death, however, He withdrew to a deserted place by Himself. Psalm 116 says: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Herodias may have thought she won a victory over John the Baptist, but did not God see and judge? Other records tell that after Herod Agrippa was made a king, Herodias thought her husband Antipas should also be made a king. So she pushed him to try to get the title too. However secretly, Agrippa sent letters to the new Caesar in Rome with claims that Antipas had been disloyal. This resulted in Antipas being banished to Gaul in France and his territory being added to Agrippa's. Herodias went into exile with her husband.

Many of God's faithful people have a legacy after they die that encourages the following generations of Christians to learn from them and follow their example.

At the end of Chapter 10 in John's Gospel, we have a record of John the Baptist winning people to Christ long after he was dead and buried. John himself may have thought his life ended in failure but God saw to it that his work was blessed.

For those of you who haven't come to a position to trust that God can work all things in your life together for good when you love Him and live for Him, it's time to ask yourself: 'what will I have of value in the next life?' There's no better time to ask Jesus to be your Saviour from the penalty of all your own wrongdoing than now! May you come to trust in Him completely and be free from all that continues to separate you from His presence!

A good verse of Scripture to remember is Romans Chapter 8, Verse 1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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