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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1632 ~ The Sermon on the Mount.

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

In today's Bible Adventure, the Lord Jesus presents the framework for His ministry to the 12 chosen disciples and the crowds who gathered to hear what He had to say. This framework is called the Sermon on the Mount and deals with living a set of godly attitudes. They're recorded in Matthew's Gospel, chapters 5 to 7, and start with eight 'beatitudes' or 'beautiful attitudes' to encourage Christians how to live.

In today's drama, two Pharisees are listening to Jesus' teaching and reporting anything of significance to their superiors. While one Pharisee thinks of Jesus' words in spiritual terms, the other had a worldly mindset and saw things differently.

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

The Sermon on the Mount centres on relationships. Firstly it dealt with how we relate to ourselves and each statement is meant to provide encouragement. Then Jesus taught about our treatment of other people. He covered the subjects of murder, adultery, divorce, taking oaths, punishment for evil deeds and the need to love our enemies.

Next, Jesus explained how to relate to God through giving and prayer. And lastly, Jesus provided guidelines for living in the world, for storing up treasure in heaven, rejecting anxiety, refusing to be judgmental, remembering that God hears prayers and a warning about false teachers. This sermon is a model of a Christlike life and not only did Jesus teach these principles, He lived them Himself.

Jesus was and is our example. Our world would be greatly improved simply by all of us practising these teachings as these are the best prescription for mental and spiritual health it is possible to find.

To most, the top priority in life seems to be looking for happiness. It's a sad fact that those who search persistently for happiness, are those who are known not to find it. Happiness is a by-product of letting Christ become the ruler in our lives and giving kindly help to others. Inner happiness then finds us. Happiness given by the world is only for a moment, and then it disappears.

Jesus started His Sermon on the Mount with eight statements beginning with the word 'blessed'. 'Blessed' means to be deeply happy and spiritually prosperous in joy and satisfaction of God's abundant favour and salvation, regardless of one's outward circumstances.

The first statement about the poor in spirit being happy is for those who are humble and rate themselves insignificant before God and others. Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

The term 'poor in spirit' is a chosen spiritual poverty or self-renunciation and is the opposite of self-sufficiency. The self when emptied allows for a filling with the riches of God. The giving of one's self to Jesus makes it possible for Jesus to give Himself to that person. This blessing is for people who are willing to humble themselves. Why is humility so important before God?

When God created human beings in His own likeness, God made us very complex people in all our different parts. The human imagination and ego are important helpful parts of each person if, and only if, they are surrendered into God's hands.

A young pastor always started by citing the meetings he would be attending that week when giving the announcements in the Sunday services. The people would smile and he only understood why, after he had confessed a big ego to God. If God asked you what your name is would you have to answer 'ego' or 'cheat' or 'unloving'? If you have some negative character trait that stands out over your personality, confess it to the Lord Jesus and ask Him to wash you clean of it. Humility is the pathway to effective service for God and then you'll be happy to serve your Lord in any way He calls you to.

The second statement says that those who mourn will be comforted. Whether the sorrow comes from the loss of loved ones or some tragedy or regret over personal sinfulness, there are words of comfort in the Scriptures. In Romans, Chapter 15, it says: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

In the next verse, God is described as the God of patience and comfort. When we mourn, we must not become obsessed with self-pitying questions like: “Why did God allow this to happen to me?” “Or, how could a loving God allow such a thing?” If we open the Scriptures for those precious promises God honours, God’s comfort is available to us. As we read, we turn from our grief to a fuller appreciation of what Jesus suffered for here on earth. Then in prayer, we can make requests to our Heavenly Father in the knowledge that He knows our deepest needs.

Many older Christian parents grieve over their grown up but unsaved children. There is a ministry of intercession before God’s throne for the souls of those ignoring or neglecting the most important things in life. Sorrow and grief can produce tremendous benefits in our lives if we let them.

God in love has promised grace for every trial,
Strength for every sorrow, help for every mile,
And may He in sympathy and unfailing love impart
Help for each tomorrow and new courage to your heart!

The ultimate comfort for those trusting the Lord Jesus comes from the book of Revelation, Chapter 21: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” What joy there will be then!

Jesus’ third statement of blessing is for the meek or those who are submissive, patient and long-suffering. God has promised them that they shall inherit the earth. This is also recorded in Psalm 37 which says: “But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Meekness is not weakness or being timid and hesitant. Meek people are trusting Christ with confidence and assurance. Their yieldedness to Christ makes all the difference. The universe doesn't respond to those with an aggressive and demanding spirit. However, the quality of meekness or humility described in the Beatitudes is not the result of natural temperament but instead it comes from knowing Christ and abiding in Him.

While driving down a country road, a man came to a one-lane bridge. The sign before it said: 'Yield'. As there was no one else in sight, he crossed the bridge. On his return journey, he was surprised to see the sign at that end of the bridge also said: 'Yield'. Drivers from both directions were requested to give the other the right of way. It was a reasonable and gracious way of preventing a head-on collision. In Ephesians, Chapter 5, Christians are told to be "subject to one another". This command gives the right-of-way to others and prevents unnecessary head-on disagreements.

When the Christian is called to suffer unjustly, he or she then remembers the Word of the Lord that says, "It is mine to avenge. I will repay." This person trusts God to work out the situation in God's own time and in His own way. The Christian also prays that God will bring good out of a bad situation. This has the effect of making all situations serve the purposes of God.

In the next statement Jesus promises that those who hunger and thirst for uprightness and right standing with God will be completely satisfied.

Everyone hungers for something. It might be financial security or fame, success or stable relationships, but everyone also hungers for happiness. Jesus didn't say any of those but to hunger for righteousness.

Those who study human behaviour tell us that everything we do has a goal. Even at unconscious levels there's always a goal in mind. And one of the ways you can better understand yourself and why you do the things you do, is to ask yourself, "What is my goal? Why am I doing this?"

A long distance swimmer was close to finishing her marathon when she gave up and asked to be pulled back into the escort boat. Her coach urged her to go just a bit further and she'd come to the shoreline. But she didn't because it was foggy and she couldn't see the beach that day. She had lost sight of her goal. And we can do that too. That's why the Apostle Paul said in Philippians chapter 3: "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

There's only one way to now gain right standing with God and that's through trust in the redeeming work of the Lord Jesus when He died on the cross for the sins of the whole world. Salvation can never be earned but has to be received. People are utterly helpless in trying to save themselves. It is by grace we are saved, through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God.

If you haven't already asked Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour, today is the best day to ask Him for your free gift from God.

A good lesson to remember in every stage of life is from Galatians chapter 6 verse 7: "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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