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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1638 ~ The Parable of the Sower.**

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

The Lord Jesus used short stories known as parables to use the ordinary things of life to teach the Israelite people spiritual truths about God the Father and heaven. Sometimes, if no explanation of a parable's meaning was given, people were confused, never coming to understand what Jesus meant.

In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 24, Jesus told the Parable of the Talents, also known as The Three Servants: The kingdom of heaven can be compared to a man travelling to a far country. He called his servants and entrusted them with his money. Each one was given according to his own ability. The man expected each of his servants to put his money to work and increase his wealth. Then the man left on a long journey.

The first two servants doubled the amount that they were given. The third servant didn't attempt to do anything with his share. He simply dug a hole in the ground and put his master's money there. After a long time, the man returned and called in his servants to give account of their activities while he was away. He was very pleased with the first two servants who had doubled his wealth. He praised and rewarded them by giving them even more to be responsible for.

Then the third servant brought back the amount of money he had been entrusted with, and gave some reasons for doing nothing with it. The man was angry and said the servant could have at least given the money to the bankers and gain interest on it. The man ordered the third servant's money be given to the first servant, who already had a large amount. The third unprofitable servant was thrown outside in terrible darkness.

When a farmer goes out to sow a field with grain, he too expects a good return on his crops, and especially in Jesus' day, a harvest of food that will last for a whole year. In Jesus' time, the farmer took the grain seed and scattered it by hand over the freshly ploughed soil. This is another parable that Jesus told the people. Today's Bible Adventure drama starts with the Parable of the Sower.

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Our Heavenly Father is looking for a harvest from His people too. In John's Gospel, Chapter 15, Jesus said: "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser (or gardener). Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

Jesus also said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned."

This is a serious warning. Some people say they are Christians and even hold important positions in the church but really, they just pretend to be Christians. Some look for the importance that their position gives them. Some try to run the church the same way as they run their business. Others look for leadership control so they can tell others what to do. The amazing thing to realise is that God knows those who are truly His. No one can fool God! Although pretend Christians often deceive others, they also deceive themselves. It is God who will have the last word.

In Matthew, Chapter 7, Jesus said: “Not everyone who calls me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do.”

“When the Judgment Day comes, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord! In your name we spoke God’s message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles!’ Then I will say to them ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you wicked people!’”

In that same chapter, Jesus gave a warning to watch out for false prophets. He said: “They come to you looking like sheep on the outside, but on the inside they are really like wild wolves. You will know them by what they do.”

He continued: “Thorn bushes do not bear grapes, and briars do not bear figs. A healthy tree bears good fruit, but a poor tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a poor tree cannot bear good fruit. And any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know the false prophets by what they do.”

So what is good fruit and what is not? Unless and until a person willingly devotes their life to the Lord Jesus, they haven't become a branch in Him; nor does He have any part in them. Each person must look to Jesus in faith for His forgiveness for all their wrongdoing. They must also believe that the only way to God the Father in heaven is through Jesus. For it is only in surrender to God and His will for our lives that we can receive the Holy Spirit. Without the indwelling power of God, even the most committed Christian can bear no fruit.

The good works a non-believer in Christ does can never bring that person into a trusting relationship with Jesus. Neither can such works bridge the gulf caused by human sin. The sinner coming to Christ for forgiveness sings: "Nothing in my hands I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling."

A gardening man had a small tree growing on his land. A name tag was attached to one of its branches by a piece of wire. As the branch grew, the wire began to cut into it. The gardener saw that the leaves weren't flourishing like those on the other branches, so he removed the wire. In a few days life was flowing to such an extent that the branch began flowering. Soon the marks of the wire disappeared.

Some of you may be in danger of withering by the constrictions of sin. If you return to abiding in Christ, you will discover that He will continue to work through you. Once more, you will demonstrate to others that abiding in Christ is the sure condition for fruitfulness.

Each of us can make a difference in our world. God calls us to be salt, light and ambassadors for Christ. He wants each of us to leave our workplace, family, neighbourhood and church a better place than how it was when we came.

The Holy Spirit's work in the committed believer's life produces a number of attitudes which include love, self-discipline, generosity and kindness to help others. And as opportunities arise, a believer will point people to the greatest love gift ever offered to human beings – a place in God's kingdom and an inheritance.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul is speaking about his teaching to the people in Corinth as laying a foundation for a building. Each believer is building on that foundation.

It says: "God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid. Some will use gold or silver or precious stones in building on the foundation; others will use wood or grass or straw."

"And the quality of each person's work will be seen when the Day of Christ exposes it. For on that Day fire will reveal everyone's work; the fire will test it and show its real quality. If what was built on the foundation survives the fire, the builder will receive a reward."

Both the Apostles Paul and John admitted they didn't know what the rewards of heaven would be like. We can't have any idea either, except to say that God is just and fair; He will pay His workers fairly then.

Yes, there are rewards for faithfulness, but not necessarily down here on earth.

A good verse to remember is 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 19, which says: "Those who say that they belong to the Lord must turn away from wrongdoing."

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

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