



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1767 ~ The Storm at Sea.

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

There's an important distinction between a journalist and a writer. A journalist reports mostly the tragedies of life and their readers usually understand that life can be short, sad and uncertain. But a fiction writer follows a different rule. Fiction novels need to have some sort of ending that has a resolution or sense of completion; and often those endings are happy ones. The reader waits to see how the plot turns out and find out who triumphs. It's usually in dramas and tragedies that end with some leading characters being killed off by the completion of the story.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, we already know that Paul will survive a terrible storm at sea, because the Lord had appeared to him and told him so in the first days when he was imprisoned at Caesarea. That was well over two years before the time Paul was sailing as a prisoner to Rome. Because the Lord had told Paul that he would go to Rome, Paul expected to survive the coming storm at sea.

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

The centurion named Julius in charge of Paul and a group of prisoners sailing to Rome grew to respect Paul and listen to what Paul had to say. Julius obviously didn't have much sailing experience and he'd overruled staying in the port of Fair Havens on Crete Island for the winter. As the ship made its way to a larger port not too far way, a terrible storm from the northeast came upon them.

The strong winds drove the ship away from land and towards the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. They passed the south side of a small island named Cauda and the wind was blocked for a short time. The sailors hoisted up a small lifeboat that was usually pulled along behind the ship in good weather. In that brief time of rest from the relentless wind, the sailors passed strong ropes under the ship to prevent the ship from breaking up from the pounding of the waves.

The sailors also took down the top sails to stop the ship from travelling so fast. They didn't want to run aground on the sandbars near the coast of present-day Libya, in northern Africa. They didn't know exactly where they were going for they were at the mercy of the winds. The next day, to prevent the ship from sinking, the sailors began to throw excess cargo overboard. The day after that, they threw overboard the spare sails and other shipping equipment.

Day after day, the storm still didn't let up. With the ship creaking and groaning, what could they do but let the wind take it in whatever direction it chose? For 14 days, the sun and moon were hidden by storm clouds so the sailors couldn't tell where they were. The constant movement of the ship meant that no one could rest. And coupled with that was the terror of being drowned at sea. Both the sailors and passengers were giving up hope of getting onto dry land ever again. The rough weather made it difficult for anyone of the 276 people on board to think about eating food. But Paul spoke up and urged them all to eat something. He gave them an assurance that none of them would lose their lives.

Could the people believe him? Paul gave the good news that an angel from God had appeared to him during the night and told him that he would stand trial before Caesar. The angel also told Paul that God had graciously given Paul the lives of all who were sailing with him. However, the ship would be lost.

There've been many cases in history when God has shown special mercy to people because of the presence of one or more of God's servants among them. Paul told those on board that he had faith in God that it would happen just as he'd been told.

On the 15th January 2009, a jet plane carrying 155 passengers and crew was only 1½ minutes into its flight out of New York City when a flock of birds flew into the path of its engines, destroying the engines. The highly trained pilot had no time to make choices but to bring the plane down in the Hudson River.

Despite the near certainty of disaster on the chilly waters of the river, some people prayed while others thought about their families as the plane lost altitude. There were only 3½ minutes before impact. The plane's tail hit the water hard and the plane travelled a further 5 or 6 city block lengths before coming to a stop. At mid-plane, the 4 wing exits quickly popped open. People started moving out of these and jumping into the river to swim away from the fuel-laden plane just in case there was an explosion. Having survived the crash, these people then had to survive the cold water temperatures.

Some people in the back section of the plane were in water up to their necks before they could get out of their seats and struggle up the aisle to an exit. As they did so they realised that the water was getting shallower as they walked. No one seemed to have thought of their life jackets. People lined up on the wings of the plane and that became an enduring photo of a successful plane rescue operation.

One woman who'd been in the river was pulled back onto the wing. She was exhausted and unable to climb up the rope ladder to board one of the ferry boats that had come to their rescue. That particular boat had pinned a man's foot to the wing of the plane and had to back off a bit. As it did so, that exhausted woman fell back into the river. She was now at exceptionally high risk. And she herself thought that she wouldn't make it. She was pulled back onto the wing but her arms and legs had no strength in them. She couldn't get up the ladder to board the ferry. Her friend tried to keep her on the plane's wing but she slipped back again into the water.

Just then a police department helicopter arrived overhead. The pilot dropped a crew member down into the water close to the weary woman and she was rescued. And the thing that cheers the hearts of all who hear this true story is that not one of those 155 people was lost. People helped one another and even an 85-year-old woman on board was saved. The pilot and his crew were highly praised and it's to be hoped that many said their 'Thank you' prayers to God for His mercy in saving that plane-load of people.

While the people on the plane had such a short time to pray, what do you think the people on Paul's ship did on days 4 to 12 of the storm? Some may have thought through their regrets over past decisions, their financial losses and their future death by drowning. Although the Scriptures don't tell us, the Apostle Paul would have been constantly waiting on the Lord in prayer.

What does it mean to 'wait on the Lord?' Most of us don't like to wait for anything. We think it's a waste of time to have to suffer delays. But with spiritual things, we can learn a lot through delayed granting of our requests, for the Lord promises to reward those who submit to His timing. God acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.

In Lamentations, Chapter 3, it says: "The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him." God is working all things together for our good and His glory as it says in Romans, Chapter 8: "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him, those whom he has called according to his purpose." When we rush to push along God's plans or do things in our own way, we end up being defeated or weakened.

We mustn't try to manipulate circumstances for our advantage, because this drains our energy. But waiting on Him strengthens us for the tasks ahead. In the end, we'll never be embarrassed if we choose to wait on God. It's always the wise thing to do. When others encourage us to forge ahead, we need to remember that the Lord's plans and timing are always best. In Isaiah, Chapter 49, it says that no one who waits for the Lord's help will be disappointed.

The principle of waiting is trust or faith in the nature and character of God. No one can wait on the Lord if he or she doesn't truly trust in God as the foundation of their strength and their refuge in all of life. Waiting means claiming God's promises by faith and resting in what God is doing in our lives. This gives us hope that at the right time, God will help us.

Although waiting can be one of the more difficult things in the Christian life, it's *not* wasted time. During periods of waiting, God teaches us lessons that we couldn't otherwise learn. In such a season, He sifts our motives, strengthens our faith and might even change our circumstances. His purpose is to keep us in step with Him as He prepares us to receive the answers we need to hear. It's a bit like planting a seed. If we dig it up in a few weeks to see if it's growing, it'll likely die. In the same way, growing in spiritual maturity takes time and it can't be rushed. Obey the Lord and humble yourself under His mighty hand and in due season, He will honour you.

When we think of waiting, we might have the idea of just sitting back, not doing much of anything and just waiting for something to happen. That isn't the kind of waiting the Bible is calling for and it says that during a waiting period, there are things we should and shouldn't do. While doing the right things, we must refuse to retaliate or take revenge if we are harmed in some way by another. We must decline to pass judgment on the motives of others or evaluate them by human standards.

If there's conflict in our work situation, we should refuse to change jobs or run from some other circumstance without first seeking the Lord's will and answer about such. We mustn't resort to manipulating others, particularly family members, because we don't want to wait on the Lord to work. We must stop looking at the prosperity of others and not be jealous of them.

To wait on the Lord means to be content and patient because we are clinging to God and resting in His love and wisdom. These attributes can be difficult to maintain because they're not the way that our human flesh wants to do things. Satan tries to convince the human race that people do not need God and that instead, they can find security and importance outside of the Lord through our own solutions and human wisdom.

We need to always keep the words of Proverbs, Chapter 3, verses 5 and 6 in mind when we are tempted to try to do things our own way: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way ... Simply obey the Lord and refuse to do wrong."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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