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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1826 ~ Manna in the Desert.

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

God, in His unfailing love for His people, the Israelites, provided a miraculous way for them to cross the Red Sea on dry ground so they could escape from the Egyptian army. At last they were free from the bondage of slavery! They praised God, thankful not only for the things He'd done for them in the past, but with the anticipation and faith for what would happen in the future.

Within three days of their amazing deliverance from their enemy, the Israelites moved into the desert region in Midian and soon became desperate for good drinking water. God was testing their faith to see if they would continue to trust Him to provide for them.

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

In Exodus, Chapter 15, the Israelite people went searching for a plentiful supply of good water but when they couldn't find any, they began complaining against Moses. But as they did so, they were really grumbling against God, the One who controls all circumstances. This wasn't a wise thing to do. Complaining is a sin because it comes from a sense of selfishness and ingratitude. It also fosters unbelief that God can miraculously bring good out of bad and create something new out of nothing. The person complaining is focused on what they don't have and in a real sense, are coveting what they are missing. Complaining puts a person into negative thought patterns and expressing them brings them to life to discourage other people too.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 10, the Apostle Paul recounted the sins that the Israelite people did against the Lord while being led by Moses out into the desert as examples and warnings for all Christians to heed. The message is: “We must not complain.”

In Philippians, Chapter 2, Paul says: “Do everything without complaining and arguing.” And in Ephesians, Chapter 4, Paul says: “Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

When the Israelites did find some water, it proved to be salty and undrinkable. What could they do?

As always, they were to look to the Lord and not to their circumstances. The Lord gave Moses a simple solution to cleanse the water and everyone could drink as much as they wanted. This is a lesson that some of us have to learn over and over again. God desires to test our faith and obedience by bringing us into difficult circumstances. When we feel that we can bear no more, God will show us the way out of them. But to receive the solution, we must be listening to God’s voice, walking in His will and obeying His commands. We don’t have to find the solution ourselves, but we’re to look to God and do what He says.

There’s no natural explanation for how the wood Moses used made the water sweet. It was a miracle from God to teach the Israelites to trust Him. God made a promise to the people at that place. He told them that if they obeyed Him, they would be spared from all the diseases that He had brought on the Egyptians. This promise was conditional! He will heal us and bless us too if we obey Him.

However, obeying God doesn’t automatically bring healing. Sometimes God chooses not to heal or bless in a particular physical earthly way. Believers get sick and die. Most Christians have problems of one kind or another. How then, we ask ourselves, can we overcome our difficult circumstances?

These problems are all forms of testing or discipline. The Lord disciplines us for our own good, so our faith will be strengthened and He can make us holy. God sometimes disciplines us so that we might be a witness and inspiration to others. Did the Israelites learn from God's supplying their need for water?

Six weeks after leaving Egypt, the people came to a place called the 'Wilderness of Sin'. Here again, they complained against Moses and Aaron. Whenever things weren't to their liking, they grumbled and criticised. The core of their complaining was rebellion against God, by accusing Him of mistreating them and neglecting them. They said, "We'd been better off staying in Egypt." Just how quickly they'd forgotten their hard labour and the Egyptian whips that God had saved them from!

All the food the Israelites had brought with them into the wilderness was now used up and again, the people started complaining and worrying about starving to death. God was displeased with the people's attitude but He patiently gave them food. A flock of small birds called quail flew in and that landed exhausted in the camp that evening. The people caught the birds and they ate all they needed. On the following morning, after the dew around the camp dried up, there were fine round pieces of bread on the ground in the camp that God had sent from heaven. The Israelites had never seen anything like it before. The word 'Manna' means 'What is it?'

God then set another test to see if His people would obey Him in the matter of gathering up the manna from heaven. Each family was to gather as much as they needed for that day but they weren't to keep any overnight. Some disobeyed and the next day, the leftover manna was completely bad. These people refused to obey God's instructions and had little faith that God would provide a new batch of manna for them the following day. Moses was angry with these disobedient people, as he was urging them to obey God in every circumstance. And this manna would become the Israelites' main food for the next 40 years.

Moses told the people to gather twice as much on the day before the Sabbath so they would have food to eat on the Sabbath Day when they weren't to do any work. Again, instead of obeying and gathering extra manna on the Friday, some people didn't and went out on the Sabbath Day looking for manna. The Lord was displeased with these people too. He then commanded that a portion of manna be preserved, so that later generations of Israelites could see for themselves how God had provided for their ancestors in the desert.

The Israelites walking across a desert region on their way to a Promised Land may seem to be something not all of us can relate to in a meaningful way. Is there any lesson we can learn from this situation to help us to overcome our own difficult circumstances?

Yes, there is and while the theory is simple, the practice gets complicated. We must put God first in our lives. In our busy times, there seems to be so much to do in a day. But if we don't put God first, He may not receive any allotted time until we're tired and ready for bed.

That's when we decide to skip our Bible reading, only to have a quick prayer and promise we'll do double tomorrow. Then we wonder why there seems to be so many difficulties in our lives to be sorted out.

In Matthew, Chapter 6, the Lord Jesus spoke about the risk of being mastered by money and worldly things rather than by God Himself. Jesus said not to be worried about the food and drink that you need to stay alive, or about what clothes to wear. These are the things that unbelievers are always concerned about. Life is worth more than food. "Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things." And He cares for us too. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And all these things shall be added to you." The Christian's priority is to seek God's will and to serve Him in His kingdom, while not neglecting the reasonable and daily duties that help sustain our lives.

In Philippians, Chapter 4, God has promised to supply every need of His children, but His idea of what we need is often different from ours. We may think that we need riches or social advancement, but God knows what we may truly need is a time of poverty, loss or solitude. Riches don't grow us into a strong dependence on the Lord the same way that poverty does.

Have you sought the salvation that's necessary before that you can be a part of God's kingdom? Jesus' salvation is greater than all the world's riches, and lasts for all future eternal time. It relies on God totally, because no person can work for their salvation or deserve it in any way other than by accepting and receiving it. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God merely ignoring or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis by His character of divine holiness. This holiness is called grace and represents undeserved favour and power from God.

How can you become a Christian? Any person regardless of their age, race or sins, even as big as murder, can ask God to redeem them and He won't turn them away. However, each person desiring to have their long list of wrongdoing wiped away for good, must first admit that they are guilty sinners, deserving of God's punishment and that they can't help themselves out of this terrible situation.

Because Almighty God is perfect and people are not, we look to a bridge that God has placed between sinners and Himself – His Son, the perfect Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the penalty of our sins on Calvary's cross 2,000 years ago. The Bible says that believing on Jesus's forgiving and sin-removing work is the only acceptable way to God. Jesus is God's delight and yet He's now available as Saviour for anyone who willingly accepts Him as Lord of their life and they are thankful for this free gift from the bottom of their heart. As a result of this prayer, God's Holy Spirit immediately takes up residence in that person's life, giving perfect peace and happy assurance of eternal life with Jesus and God His Father in paradise.

However, becoming a Christian is only the beginning of a lifetime journey for a person learning about the Lord Jesus and how the Holy Spirit leads and guides them. The new Christian needs to know what the Scriptures say and how to talk often to the Lord in prayer, as well as telling others what Jesus' salvation and love means to you. This is the goal of our existence, to please the Lord in all things. When on earth, Jesus gave a promise of blessing to all who haven't seen Him in their flesh but yet have still believed and trusted in Him.

In 2 Peter, Chapter 1, the Apostle Peter says that God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly godly life through our knowledge of Jesus Christ. Peter encouraged Christians to grow in knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, Christian affection and love, which are all hallmarks of a Holy Spirit-led life. All these things bring our thoughts, attitudes and actions under God's control. God desires to be the top of our list for affection and daily things that we do. Let us desire what God wants, whenever He wants it and honour this first with our time and its importance.

In 2 Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 2, it says: "May grace and peace be yours in full measure through your knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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