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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1841 ~ Two Spies in Jericho.

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

After the Israelites had mourned the death of their leader, Moses, for 30 days, God spoke to their new leader, Joshua, telling him to prepare the people to cross the Jordan River. At that time of the year, the Jordan River was in flood from winter rain. The Israelites had been camping on the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho on the eastern side of the Jordan River, just north of the Salt Sea or as we now know it, the 'Dead Sea'.

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

The book of Joshua describes an important stage in the history of God's chosen people, Israel. When God called Abraham, His plan was to develop Abraham's descendants into a special nation through which He would bless the entire world. God had promised Abraham many descendants and a land of their own. While living in Egypt for 400 years, the Israelites had increased to about 2 million people and they were now waiting for God to give them a land of their own.

The Israelite conquest of Canaan took place about 1,400 BC. This was actually God's conquest of the land. The Israelites weren't war-mongering people who were simply seizing other people's property. From the beginning, it had been God's plan to give Canaan to the Israelites. The Canaanites had brought this fate upon themselves, as they were a wicked and ungodly people. God had told Abraham that 400 years would have to pass before his descendants would receive the land. They could only have it after the sin of the Canaanites had reached its full measure. We must always hold in balance God's hatred of sin and His love for those who obey Him; these are both essential aspects of God's character.

In a number of Old Testament Scripture references, God outlined the boundaries of the Promised Land and said that it was to be an eternal possession of the Israelites. It wasn't until 500 years after Joshua conquered part of the land that King Solomon continued to expand the kingdom. Yet up until today's present time, the Israelites still have not taken possession of all of the land that God said they were to have.

The two spies that Joshua sent to look over Jericho were in danger too. Should they have trusted Rahab, a prostitute, with their safety? Her house was part of the city wall and she made a deal with them to ensure the protection of her and her relatives when the Israelites came to attack Jericho. When this was agreed, Rahab let the spies down on the outside of the city wall so that they could escape the pursuing soldiers. When the soldiers came to Rahab's place, she sent the king's soldiers to the fording places at the Jordan River in the east but sent the two spies west to hide in the hills.

It's important to think about Rahab and about her role in God's ongoing history of Israel. She was more than just an ungodly Canaanite, an immoral sinner by her profession as a prostitute who had a lying tongue to the king's men. She betrayed her own people by saving the spies and thus, was guilty of treason. How much lower could a person go?

Yet God looks at each person differently and He knows their heart. That same woman Rahab looked at the God of Israel in fear and faith. She and all the people of Jericho had heard how God had dried up a pathway through the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over. They'd also heard how God had helped Israel capture all the land on the east side of the Jordan River. While the other residents of Jericho were melting in fear, Rahab had placed her faith in the Lord of Israel. She told the spies: "the Lord your God is God, in heaven above and on earth beneath." The other people in Jericho had the same knowledge as Rehab but they didn't act on it like she did.

Rahab is one of the greatest illustrations of God's grace in all of Scripture. Although she was condemned to die with the rest of the people of Jericho at Israel's takeover, God honoured her faith in Him. The Bible says God isn't willing that anyone should be cast into hell because of their sin but rather, that everyone should come to Jesus His Son in repentance. In Romans, Chapter 10, it says: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." No one is too low or too sinful for the Lord to save if one will but look to Him in faith.

As Rahab found out while living in Jericho among its people paralysed by fear at the prospect of the advancing Israelites, God is a believer's source of freedom from fear. In honouring and respecting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of our lives, a believer will find in Jesus a sanctuary from all other fears. In Isaiah, Chapter 9, in the prophecy there concerning Jesus, we're told that He is the Prince of Peace. Like Rahab still living in a city of turmoil after she farewelled the spies, we too can have peace in our heart and mind while living in difficult circumstances. In Isaiah, Chapter 26, we're told that the person who trusts in the Lord will have perfect peace as they keep their mind focused on the Lord.

Isn't that what we all want – perfect peace? Peace is an essential element of the true Christian life. Christ desires us to have peace. If we don't have it, we have missed part of the blessing of being a Christian, as peace is part of our inheritance as the adopted children of God. It's not a gift for only a favoured few, but for everyone who believes in Christ and will accept it. The Christian's peace isn't found in a place devoid of difficulties, but it's one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit indwelling a person who's given their life to Jesus. This peace of the heart is independent of all outside conditions and so amazing that it is difficult to speak of in a way that a listener will understand.

Can we hope to live in this world without troubles and cares? No sadly, such a life is impossible. Nor can we hope for a life without sorrow. To love another is to weep sometimes along the way. True religion doesn't shelter us from the grief that we must experience in life. But the peace that Jesus promises is an experience which neither care nor sorrow can disturb or overthrow, as it's something that actually changes a believer's earthly sorrow into godly joy.

Do all Christians possess this profound peace? And when does reasonable concern turn into overwhelming anxiety, worry or fear? Fear is the most basic but necessary instinct of survival for every living creature on the planet. Fear of physical harm stops us from putting ourselves in danger in many ways. But fear that is outside of trusting fully in God is harmful and counted by God as a sin. Harmful fears that we experience need to be unlearned and repented from if we're to grow into the likeness of Christ.

Fear first came upon the earth when Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden. Immediately, Adam and Eve hid from God because they were afraid of Him after disobeying God's command. Sin disconnected Adam and Eve from their loving heavenly Father and their sinning descendants ever since have struggled with harmful fear and anxiety. God is far superior to all mankind's fears and He's also kind and good. He is to be feared but God doesn't want us to be afraid of Him. In Revelation, Chapter 1, when Jesus touched John, Jesus said: "Do not be afraid." That statement appears many times in the Scriptures. God doesn't want us to run from Him in shameful, anxious fear but rather, He wants us to ask for the help we need to have our wrongdoing pardoned and our relationship with Him restored.

Fear of people can often overshadow a holy fear of God. Fear of people includes rejection, failure, abandonment or even death. Jesus said: "Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell!" The Apostle Peter also said: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." One of the biggest reasons why Christians don't share their faith in Christ with others is the fear of people's rejection and failure.

Time and time again in the Bible, God promises to be with the righteous. He cannot and He will not forget us if we belong to Him. One man told the story of his difficulty sleeping peacefully at night. He was plagued with nightmares. He started to learn verses of Scripture and when he was ready to sleep, he would quote from Philippians, Chapter 4: “Be anxious for nothing.” He would add his own commitment, “I choose to obey that command.” He found that he needed to have ‘fearbuster’ verses like that in his heart to combat the enticement to give into fear. Like this man, we too can find out that the more our faith grows in the Lord, the more our fears and cares in this life flee. Loving God and fearing God with a reverential fear are both needed for a healthy spiritual life. They reflect the justice and mercy of God, which are opposite sides of the same coin. If we loved God without fearing and respecting Him, we could easily slip into laziness, lawlessness or self-dependence. And if we fear God with anxiety without loving Him, we could easily become legalistic and either self-righteous or self-condemning. In Psalm 103, verses 11 and 13, it says: “For as high as the sky is above the earth, so great is God’s love for those who honour Him ... As a father is kind to his children, so the Lord is kind to those who honour Him.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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