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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1844 ~ Achan's Buried Sin.

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

Anywhere in the world, there are some people who see something that doesn't belong to them and because they want it, they take it. Although the temptation to steal remains, the crime of stealing when caught has unpleasant consequences.

There also exists a number of people who aim to deceive others for their own advantage, and usually for money. These people tend to plan their deception well ahead of time. To the point that it's amazing what some conmen can gain by appealing to someone else's greed.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, we learn some lessons about deceit, deceiving ourselves and deceiving others.

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

Before the fall of the walls of Jericho, the Israelites' leader, Joshua, reminded the soldiers that everything in Jericho belonged to the Lord. No one was to take any plunder for himself. However, soon after in Joshua, Chapter 7, it was discovered that someone had done the wrong thing. Only one man, Achan, had acted unfaithfully, yet God judged all of Israel guilty of committing Achan's sin, and good soldiers died in their next battle. God held the whole community accountable and responsible for the actions of each of its members. This was why it was so important for God to punish Achan or his sin might have ended up defiling the entire nation.

In Jeremiah, Chapter 17, it says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; ... I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

Achan needed a lesson in learning the greatness of God and His abilities. God already knew what Achan had done because God is all-knowing. People who think they can hide something from God only deceive themselves. In Galatians, Chapter 6, it says: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked: for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." No one can fool God. The Bible says He keeps a record book in heaven. We're to live our lives pleasing to God in both our plans and actions about all things.

What could Achan achieve by stealing something from the ruins of Jericho? He hid the loot by digging a hole in the ground under his tent. But Achan would have also known that when the land of Canaan was divided up between Israel's tribes, his share of the land wasn't going to be where his tent currently stood. So to retain possession of what he'd stolen, Achan would have to dig it up again and hide it elsewhere while moving to another region to live. See how one sin leads to another. In reality, Achan deceived himself and he cut himself and his family off from being part of Israel.

His family must have known that Achan was doing something wrong. And like them, we all try to hide our sins. It's only when we're found out that we confess what we've done. People usually come forward and admit their wrongdoing only when they're caught.

Joshua and the elders of Israel were distressed by the defeat of their soldiers at the hands of the men from a small town called 'Ai'. Thirty-six good Israelite men lost their lives. God had promised to always be with Joshua but now, He had seemed to withdraw. The people went into mourning for those who'd been lost. But Joshua enquired of the Lord as why this had happened.

God was quick to tell Joshua that someone in the Israeli camp had stolen something from Him. And from that sin, a much larger sin had been committed. Israel had broken God's covenant. The giving of Canaan to Israel had been a covenant promise and therefore, could be cancelled for the present generation.

God told Joshua to consecrate the people. The next day, the people were to come before the Lord when He revealed the guilty person. God dealt with the sin against Himself personally. He didn't tell Joshua that Achan was the guilty person or save him the time and trouble of drawing lots stage by stage among the people? Obviously Achan had no intention of telling anyone that he was the guilty party. With so many people from every tribe present, Achan thought that he'd never be found out. But how he deceived himself!

When the lot fell in favour of Achan, Joshua told Achan to tell the truth and to confess what he'd done. But despite his earlier intentions, Achan did so once he knew he was found out. Joshua sent men to recover the stolen property from Achan's tent. If Achan had fully confessed his sin, why then wasn't he forgiven? Achan hadn't confessed voluntarily, and his children had also hidden his sin. Achan was a wealthy man and he didn't need what he'd stolen. But in the end, he lost everything, including his own life and that of his family's. God never acts unjustly. God's anger then turned away from the Israelites.

What are the warnings from this chapter that we as Christians need to be careful to observe? All sin violates our covenant with God, and unconfessed or hidden sins should not be allowed to remain in the church.

Unconfessed sin is like a cancer. It spreads through congregations, hindering the Holy Spirit's work and blocking our communion with God. This in turn, reduces our spiritual power and victory. Christians don't stone people today like God's Old Testament laws required for Israel, but it's important that those who continue living with unconfessed sin and refuse to repent, should be expelled from the church. On a personal level, we're not fit to deal with the sin in other people's lives until we've first dealt with the sin in our own lives.

We deceive ourselves when we deceive others. People often act and speak one way in public but then they go home and they reveal their real selves, which doesn't line up with their public image. There's a reason God tells us to examine the works people do and not just their words, for they're often two very different things. For Christians, we aren't to be telling lies or half-truths to deceive others. There are unpleasant consequences sooner or later for doing this, as horrified Achan found out.

If the God of our Bible is real and everything in our Bible is true, then everything that's real must conform to God's truth, no matter how it's being presented by society or educators to you. Numbers 32 also says, "Your sin will find you out." It found Achan out, and it'll find us out as well. It's not a matter of if; it's only a matter of when.

The people of a large city called Gibeon not far from Jerusalem decided not to try fighting. They must have heard that Israel was forbidden to make treaties with any group within Canaan. Instead, they planned to deceive Joshua and the leaders of Israel into thinking that they'd come from a far country outside the borders of Canaan and make a treaty with them.

The Gibeonite delegates wore old clothing and worn-out sandals. They carried old mouldy bread and they told lies about how long they'd been travelling for. They also claimed that they'd heard of the Lord's fame and His mighty works. The fear of the Gibeonites was similar to the fear of the people of Jericho; it didn't lead to faith in the living God. It only led them to try to save their lives at any cost, even if to do so made them slaves.

The Israelites should have firstly consulted the Lord and asked Him what to do. How easy it is for those in God's service to take His guidance for granted! Joshua made a treaty with the Gibeonites, guaranteeing that they would be allowed to live and even defended when in danger. When this whole deception came to light three days later and the Gibeonites revealed that they lived within the land of Canaan, there was nothing the Israelites could do about it.

One of Satan's greatest weapons is deception. When Satan fails to defeat us head on, he resorts to deception. We all need to pray for wisdom to keep from being deceived. Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verse 6A, says: "Let no one deceive you with empty words."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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