



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1966 ~ In a Grain Field; a Hand Healed.

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

In today's Bible Adventure, the Lord Jesus continued feeling the opposition of Israel's ruling religious leaders because He kept doing good things for many people in need. The rulers, however, thought their rules more important than anything else, and they harassed anyone who broke their rules with fanatical zeal.

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

Although the religious leaders didn't respect Jesus or His authority as God's Son, they felt rather safe with Him. Even when they challenged Him over breaking their man-made laws, they didn't expect Jesus to respond to them with rudeness or harm in any way. If they felt He would threaten them with future punishments for their disrespect, they might well have been more guarded in what they said to Him. But at this stage in Jesus' ministry, the Pharisees and scribes hadn't learnt to be careful in their accusations.

Back in the book of 2nd Kings, Chapter 2, the prophet Elisha was travelling on a journey when a group of young men came out and showed their disrespect for him by mocking him. Elisha called for punishment from the Lord. Forty-two of them were then injured by two bears coming out of the woods.

Jesus' disciples must have remembered this incident and asked Jesus if they should call down fire from heaven to punish the people of a Samaritan village who wouldn't receive Him. But Jesus didn't encourage revenge in any way at any time.

Each one of us must decide what we will hold as most important to us. Will it be goals of money and possessions? Or controlling other people? Or having a good time and pleasure? For Israel's religious rulers, what was important to them was controlling other people as well as making lots of money by inflating the prices of the sale of animals at the Temple. If these men had given Jesus more respect, they may have learnt more from Him but instead, their hearts were hard and remained so.

Although these religious men thought they were doing God's work in a pleasing and correct manner, they were actually going through the rituals of self-centred worship. This was governed by keeping rules, rather than pleasing God. God our Creator understands human nature. He doesn't want us majoring on things that don't count for eternity or block a genuine desire to seek and know His leading in all things.

In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 23, the Lord Jesus warned the Scribes and Pharisees about focusing on minor things such as tithing the leaves on their household herbs, while ignoring the important things of living in justice, mercy and faith.

Important Christian writers say that one of the most serious problems in Christian churches today is the problem of legalism. It brings about the same results every day. Legalism robs the Christian believer of the joy of the Lord and with it goes His power for vital worship and energetic service. Nothing is left but gloominess and a reluctance to help others in need. Legalism has a way of grinding down a person's spirituality and replacing the role of God's Holy Spirit as teacher and comforter from within.

A man studying in a legalistic college had to comply with living under very strict rules. The students weren't supposed to do any work on Sundays. None! When he found that his wife had washed a few articles of clothing on a Sunday and caught her hanging them out to dry, he reported her to the authorities! You see, legalism has no pity on people and no interest in the needs of others. Legalism makes its opinion over other people's burden, and then their boundary and obligation to live by.

Not only church people are affected by legalism, but missionaries as well. A young family was preparing for missionary service in a country where one of their favourite foods wasn't available. Would they decide to do without it and accept that some things are to be sacrificed in the service of the Lord? They then found that they could continue eating this food if some of their friends back home posted them parcels of it at regular intervals. What a good idea this was, and so arrangements were made.

But when this family arrived at their mission post, they discovered that other missionaries in the area had decided to do without this particular food while living there. The young family ate their supply quietly at home. But in time, it came out that they were eating such things. The new family was deemed by the other missionaries as not being as spiritual as the more experienced missionaries were.

The young family was pressured to stop receiving the food and a petty legalistic campaign against them excluded them from various functions.

The pressure over the young family's liberty to eat any food they liked proved to be insurmountable. They returned home disillusioned and gave up their commitment to serve the Lord in foreign missions.

How could such a loveless situation bring any honour to the Lord or win any converts to His kingdom? Non-Christians are often much more sensitive to disagreements than Christians wish them to be. And people not wanting to give themselves to Christ often use as excuse the mistakes made by people who profess to be Christians. Love for Christ and love for others has to be the real thing. No amount of pretence will help the cause of Christ.

A dear Christian lady was talking to a man who claimed that it wasn't possible to know if God exists or not. As he took that agnostic attitude, he claimed many Christians are like a person with a headache. They are unwilling to get rid of their head but at the same time, remain very uncomfortable. He claimed that he wasn't interested in that kind of religion.

Why should the children of God lead spiritually uncomfortable lives when He's led us to believe that His yoke is easy and His burden light? Has the Lord Jesus been under-believed and under-trusted? Sometimes we have all sorts of wrong ideas of what God is like. These can be cleared up by a consistent reading of the Bible with an emphasis on learning God's names, nature and character.

We believe what is written in the Scriptures to give us the knowledge of God's great goodness and love. They are the facts we can pin all our hopes and trust upon, especially when we go through the storms of life. Having certainty of the facts brings us conviction of knowing God's truth. Then, even if sickness or some other problem comes to us, our convictions will keep us anchored in our beliefs about God.

It's sad to see that some Christians tend to develop ungodly spiritual fruit like doubt, fear, unrest, conflict, legalism and discomfort of every kind. Why do some find it so difficult to be sure that God truly loves us? We know that the Cross of Calvary proved just how far He would go to demonstrate this love. For the believer in Christ, there should be inner peace, even when living through earthly sorrows and trials. For Christ Himself always intercedes for His people as He sits at His Father's right hand!

In Romans, Chapter 8, it says: “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

The Lord Jesus showed compassion and love to those with great need, even though He was harassed for this by the religious authorities. When Jesus healed the man with the withered hand, Jesus gave the man full physical health. We need to seek Jesus’ inner healing so that we have that much needed ‘inner peace’.

Christ’s love and compassion is an example to us for living out our own lives. In I Thessalonians, Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul says: “May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you.” One writer says that Christians should make it our goal in life to excel in loving. The desire to excel in everything we do is commendable and will bring earthly rewards. But to excel in loving brings spiritual rewards. It strengthens our heart and makes it blameless in holiness.

If you haven’t yet promised to live for the Lord Jesus Christ, consider this: those who don’t respect Jesus as the Son of God and trust Him for everything can’t expect to receive anything at all from Him. Now this sounds so ‘black and white’. But Jesus knows those who trust Him and those who continue to live as slaves to sin. The Scriptures say we are slaves of anything that has conquered us. It is far better to be set free from sin and become a servant of God instead. Ask the Lord Jesus to help you understand these things.

A good verse of Scripture to remember is from Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 23: “For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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