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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1993 ~ Division Among the People.

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

One of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry was the division His teaching and healing brought among the Jewish people. Some believed in Jesus as the Messiah when they saw His miracles in restoring people with health problems and demon possession. Others went back to look in the Old Testament to check out what they believed the Messiah should be doing and the prophecies regarding His life.

In John, Chapter 7, the people heard Jesus speaking boldly at the Temple in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. The religious rulers listened in too yet said nothing to Him, although in their hearts, they were wanting to kill him. The people wondered if the rulers did indeed know that Jesus was truly the Christ, the Son of God.

At the end of Matthew, Chapter 2, the Bible says Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to Nazareth, so that the prophecy might be fulfilled about Jesus being called a Nazarene. The word 'Nazarene' means 'branch' or 'separated one', as recorded in Isaiah, Chapter 11. So a division about Jesus' Messiahship caused the people listening in the Temple to be unsure of the source of Jesus' power and authority.

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

Caiaphas the Jewish Temple High Priest acted more like a politician than a humble priest who led the people to understand what the Scriptures said and loved God. Caiaphas didn't want to know about God's displeasure in the way he and his fellow priests' hearts were far from God, even though they followed many religious traditions in the Temple and did these seemingly very well. If only Caiaphas had compassion for the poor and uneducated people, God would have been better pleased with him.

Caiaphas really ran a religious business which paid him and his workers a very good living. The rulers had made themselves rich by charging high prices for buying sacrificial animals used in sin offerings.

Jesus' teaching was hard for the people to accept because they never expected that the Messiah would die at a young age. They wanted the Messiah to drive out their hated Roman overlords and set up a victorious Israelite kingdom again. In their eyes, Jesus of Nazareth wasn't exactly building up their expectations of giving them independence and freedom again. No doubt many were quite disappointed in Jesus because He wasn't catering to their wishes and expectations.

Christian Bible students today can make good sense of Jesus' sayings due to a wonderful thing called 'hindsight'. After Jesus' death and resurrection, and the giving of the Holy Spirit, all the Biblical prophecies were better understood. Jesus came to earth this first time to be the sin-bearer of those who would trust in Him.

The second time Jesus will come, which will be at some unknown future time, He will set up His 1,000-year kingly reign and rule the whole world from Jerusalem. At present, the earth groans under the curse of sin, which started at the time of Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. But Jesus will recreate the world to be a restored and well-functioning place again. What a time of rejoicing this time will be! Everyone will have plenty of food to eat. With no threat of war everyone will live in peace and be satisfied.

When Caiaphas sent officers to arrest Jesus as He taught in the Temple, the officers stopped and listened instead. When they returned to Caiaphas, they told him that no one ever spoke like Jesus did. The Pharisees replied, “Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?” The rulers dismissed the crowd listening to Jesus as being doomed because they didn’t know the Law as well as the priests did.

In Proverbs, Chapter 17, it says: “A friend loves at all times.” Nicodemus, a Pharisee, spoke up in the Temple. He had visited Jesus by night to ask questions and was undoubtedly a secret believer in Him. He said to the murmuring religious rulers, “According to our Law we cannot condemn people before hearing them and finding out what they have done.” The others there told Nicodemus to search and look through the Scriptures, for no prophet had ever come from Galilee. Then they all went to their homes while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

The Lord Jesus had only 6 months more of ministry before the last Passover would bring His life to a close. Although Jesus had made many friends, He also had made many bitter enemies in the Temple. The rulers had been after His blood for some time and when any new confrontation arose, Jesus quietly moved away from it all. Jesus knew at that point that His time hadn’t come to die. He also knew that He must fulfil the prophecies that said He would die on a tree or a cross.

Despite knowing He was soon to die, Jesus didn’t compromise His teaching to make it more acceptable to the religious leaders. In Matthew, Chapter 10, He said: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; your worst enemies will be the members of your own family.” This piece is a quote from Micah, Chapter 7, in the Old Testament.

Certainly this became true for Jesus in that He was betrayed by one of His own chosen disciples who had been with Him for years.

Jesus taught people how to treat their enemies. In Luke, Chapter 6, He said: “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you.”

In Romans, Chapter 12, the Apostle Paul quotes from Proverbs, Chapter 25: “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink, for by doing this you will make them burn with shame. Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good.”

A family of new Christians was having trouble at school with a bully upsetting their boy during the day. When they read those verses from the Bible, the family took them literally. The mother sent her boy to school with food for the bully. And it worked. The bully and son were soon good friends.

In the American Revolution against Britain from 1775 to 1783, an old Baptist pastor by the name of Peter Miller enjoyed the friendship of General George Washington. In the same city lived another man who did all the evil things he could do to oppose and humiliate the pastor. One day, however, this evil man was arrested for treason and sentenced to die. When the pastor heard of it, he walked 70 miles to visit George Washington to plead for the man’s life.

“No, Peter,” General Washington said, “I cannot give you the life of your friend.”

“My friend!” exclaimed the old preacher. “He’s the bitterest enemy I have.”

“What?” cried Washington! “You’ve walked 70 miles to save the life of an enemy? That puts the matter in a different light. I’ll grant your pardon.” And so he did.

The old pastor took the man back to their city, no longer an enemy but as a friend.

The 'justification by faith' words are from Romans Chapter 5, Verse 1: "Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." May you believe, be saved and find peace in heart and mind to be your experience today!

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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