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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1998 ~ Samaritan Village Refuses Jesus.**

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

Planning ahead can be a blessing for some people. In World War II, a Polish lady called Irena Sendler received permission from the invading Nazis to be a plumbing and sewer specialist in a slum area of Warsaw, Poland. However, she had an ulterior motive for taking on this work. As a sewerage plumber, Irena smuggled Jewish babies and toddlers out to her vehicle in either her toolbox or a sack for larger children and saved their lives.

Irena kept a dog in the back of her vehicle. She trained it to bark whenever the Nazi soldiers let her in or out of the slum area. The soldiers wanted nothing to do with the dog and the barking covered any noises made by the child. During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2,500 children. Ultimately, however, Irena was caught and the Nazis broke both of her legs and arms, and beat her severely.

Irena had kept a record of the names of all the children she had saved in a glass jar, which she kept buried under a tree in her back yard. After the war, she tried to locate any of the parents that may have survived the Nazi invasion and reunite the children with their families. Most parents, however, had been killed. The children she helped were placed into foster family homes or adopted. This brave lady gave the gift of life to so many unable to help themselves. Irena lived in Warsaw until she was 98 years old, passing away in 2008.

In today's Bible Adventure, the Lord Jesus wanted to travel the short route through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem. When Jesus' request came to the Samaritans at one village, the Samaritans had an ulterior motive of using Jesus to help them with their own political goals.

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

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When King Solomon died in 930 BC, his kingdom was divided into a southern tribe around Jerusalem, called Judah, and 10 northern tribes of Israel. Israel's new king was a former official of Solomon's and he didn't want to see the people going back south to Judah for the three pilgrim feasts that were held in the Temple of Jerusalem each year.

As recorded in 1 Kings, Chapter 12, the king made two golden calves and told the people to worship them in their own land instead of God in the Temple of Jerusalem. The king further built high places where the people were to make their sacrifices to other pagan gods. God was grieved over the people turning away from Him like this and sent a prophet to speak against their actions.

The northern kingdom was invaded by Assyria in 722 BC. Some of the Jews living in the land at that time were taken away into captivity, but others remained in the countryside. These country-dwelling people, later known as Samaritans, intermarried with the non-Jews living there and were considered to be racially 'impure'. There resulted a strong hatred between the Judah Jews and the descendants of Samaria.

When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well while passing through Samaria, the woman wanted to justify the rightness of Samaritans worshipping on Mount Gerizim and not in Jerusalem. The Lord Jesus never put her down over this sensitive topic, but He did correct her thinking about the right place and way to worship God. The Samaritans there then urged Jesus to stay with them so He stayed for two days, and many Samaritans believed in Him.

In Luke, Chapter 17, Jesus was again passing through Samaria and 10 lepers begged Jesus for healing of their leprosy. Jesus told the men to show themselves to the priests. As they walked there, they were all healed. One Samaritan man saw that he was healed and he returned to Jesus, giving heartfelt thanks and glorified God.

Today's story comes from Luke, Chapter 9, and showed how one Samaritan village was unwilling to offer hospitality to Jesus for the night if he passed through. The Samaritans didn't want Jesus to continue on for Jerusalem, where He would come under attack from the scribes and Pharisees. Rather, they preferred that He spent more time in Samaria with them and refused to help Him on His way.

Sometimes in life, our tests come when we least expect them. That Samaritan village had one night that they could have served the Saviour of the world. But they declined to do so. It was a big opportunity to have missed.

When James and John heard the Samaritans' refusal to house them for one night, they asked if they should call down fire from heaven to consume these people, just as Elijah once did. The event concerning Elijah happened just after King Ahab of Samaria had died. His son Ahaziah had been king for only a short time before he rebelled against God. The young king fell through some lattice or thin railing in his upstairs room and his injuries were a judgement from God.

The king sent messengers to a false god outside of Israel to ask if he could get better. God gave a message to Elijah for the king, who met the king's messengers on their way to finding the false god. Elijah asked these men if there was no God in Israel that they had been sent such a long distance away. Elijah's message from God was that the king would die. The messengers immediately returned to the king, who couldn't believe that they were back so soon.

The king's messengers didn't know at the time they had been speaking with Elijah, but gave a description of him to the king. Ahaziah identified the man as Elijah and sent a captain and 50 soldiers to seize Elijah by force. The king had no respect for God's prophet. When the soldiers arrived, Elijah called down fire from heaven to prove his mission and reveal God's wrath against the king's ungodliness. Undeterred at this result, the king sent a second captain and 50 more soldiers to drag Elijah back to his courts. They too, were also consumed by fire that Elijah called down from heaven.

The third captain whom Ahaziah sent humbled himself and begged Elijah for mercy from His God. God told Elijah to go with this captain and not be afraid of him. So Elijah finally faced the king and told him this same message as he had before. And so King Ahaziah died, as recorded in 2 Kings, Chapter 1.

The disciples James and John thought that the Lord Jesus was more important than the prophet Elijah and that these Samaritan people should be punished for their unwelcome hindrance. But Jesus rebuked the disciples and wouldn't allow such a thing. Their suggestion came from a spirit of revenge and anger, not from a spirit of love or forgiveness. Jesus told them that they didn't know what type of spirit they were promoting, because Jesus didn't come to destroy men's lives but to save them.

Even though Jesus was the Son of God, Jesus didn't demand His own way. What does this say about religious leaders throughout time who want to kill anyone who doesn't agree with them? Certainly, they too don't have God's Holy Spirit within them.

Most people know that there are links between a person's thoughts and their words and actions. However, also are linked a person's intentions, motives and attitudes. Our motives are very important to God because the condition of each Christian's heart is essential to their relationship with God. In Proverbs, Chapter 20, it says: "The Lord's light penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive."

When King David told his commander one day to take a census of the people, God was very displeased with this request. It may have been that David had a motive to see how powerful he'd become. Even a seemingly harmless decision like this, when made with an improper motive, can become destructive and create disharmony with God. Many Israelite people lost their lives at that time as a result of God's judgement on David's action.

How harmful can it be to a church that if, at the time of sharing out church jobs, some people seek a position for the position's status without a humble spirit before God? When a person pursues spiritual life with self-serving motives, they rob themselves of the joy God intended. God is more concerned about our motives than our appearance or outward actions, because our motives determine what's in our heart. And in life, ambition may be at the top of the things that create self-serving interest, followed closely by jealousy and discontentment.

A famous New Zealand missionary and Bible teacher once wrote about a time he wanted a particular Christian leadership position very much. Having friends in influential places, he thought about seeing if he could get his friends' help to gain this particular job. He toyed with the idea of doing a little lobbying for his own interests.

One day while walking down the main street of Auckland, the man pondered the matter over. A verse of Scripture from Jeremiah, Chapter 45, came to his mind with tremendous authority and powerful conviction: “Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not!”

The missionary said the words came to him as though it was God speaking directly to him. Although there were crowds all around him, no one else heard the loud voice. Later, the missionary said that this encounter was a real turning point in his service to the Lord. As a result, he didn't seek the position but later, the position was offered to him in God's good timing.

One writer has said: “When pride has written the sermon, it goes with us to the pulpit.” And that may be equally true of many jobs done within the church. Ulterior motives come into play when church families try to keep certain jobs in the church within one particular family. This arrangement can give control of the church decision-making to the family more than the congregation who attend. Sadly, this form of control makes a mockery of the statement that Christ is the head of the church.

As a professing follower of Christ, we must always check that we're motivated by God-serving desires and not the society around us. Have we ever taken a moment to evaluate our motives for how we choose to do what we do? Do we check the Scriptures for God's direction before accepting whatever is offered to us? Have we rushed into something that seemed worthy and 'good', and then asked God to bless it later?

Self-motivation is rooted in self. It's a dangerous lie that can hide behind a façade of doing so much for others, so that it appears you couldn't possibly be doing it for yourself. The truth is revealed when it becomes obvious that a person is constantly looking for the next pat on the back. Over time, a form of pride emerges about what this person has done and how much they have accomplished. Are we led by self-serving motives that show up as pride and ego to those around us?

Instead of consulting your calendar about what you should be doing in life, take some time to talk to God instead. He will answer you. You may not always like what He has to say, but He does have your best interests at heart. He knows what you need and what He has called you to do. You need to do this humbly to honour Him with your life.

In the Epistle of James, Chapter 3, the Apostle James said: “Are there any of you who are wise and understanding? You are to prove it by your good life, by your good deeds performed with humility and wisdom. But if in your heart you are jealous, bitter and selfish, don’t sin against the truth by boasting of your wisdom. Such wisdom does not come down from heaven; it belongs to the world, it is unspiritual and demonic. Where there is jealousy and selfishness, there is also disorder and every kind of evil. But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.”

Your attitude towards God is a good indicator of your motives toward others. If you are half-hearted in the way you approach your relationship with God, chances are your motives towards others may also be half-hearted and more self-centred than they should be. Before you do something, remember that God is as interested in your motives as much as He is in your actions.

You cannot have pure motives and godly sincerity without God’s Spirit in your heart. Pure motives come straight from the source of life and truth. Without the Holy Spirit’s direction and conviction, our motives become tainted and lack sincerity. Ask Jesus for cleansing and renewal today. He will set you right again on His path where grace, mercy and wisdom dwell.

Our motives can be sorted out by this saying: “No person knows what he is living for until he knows what he’s prepared to die for.” What’s so important in our lives that we are prepared to die for it? Do we love our Lord enough to lay down our lives for Him? Pray to remain true to Him in times of persecution and trials.

In Proverbs, Chapter 21, Verse 2, it says: “You may think that everything you do is right, but remember that the Lord judges your motives.”

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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