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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2000 ~ The Good Samaritan.

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

When Roy was a prisoner in jail, he became a Christian and then had some hard lessons to unlearn. All his life, he'd been taught to hate his enemies, particularly those held within prison walls. One of Roy's most annoying enemies was an inmate called Rodney, who stole his radio and headphones while Roy was out playing sport in the prison yard. The radio was an expensive gift from his mother and the headphones had been given to him by his sister.

Roy was angry and wanted revenge but as he prayed about it, it seemed to him that God was testing him. Day after day, Roy wanted to respond violently and wipe the mocking grin off Rodney's face. But the words of Romans, Chapter 12, kept coming back to his mind that he was to avoid vengeance and leave God to settle the score. Roy began to look at Rodney through God's eyes and compassion for him grew. Roy began praying for Rodney and trusting God to achieve something in his life.

As time passed, Roy's hatred for Rodney began fading and he found himself helping his enemy and talking to him about Jesus. Then one day, Roy saw Rodney kneeling down next to his bunk reading his Bible. Roy knew that God had brought good into Rodney's life and that good had overcome evil.

In today's Bible Adventure, Jesus gave the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan.

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

This event is recorded in the middle part of Chapter 10 from Luke's Gospel. A disrespectful lawyer from the ruling class of the Sanhedrin had stood up to test the Lord Jesus, wanting to show his superior knowledge.

So he asked Jesus a question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The Lord Jesus knew this man's inner motive and replied with two questions that would reveal what was in the man's heart. The lawyer responded to Jesus' questions with quotes from Deuteronomy, Chapter 6 and Leviticus, Chapter 19, which he combined into one answer: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus told the lawyer that he had answered correctly and if that he did these things perfectly, he would live eternally with God in heaven. In saying this, Jesus didn't mean that a person can be saved by obeying the law, because no one is saved except by faith alone. The reason that people cannot be saved by the law is that no person (except the Lord Jesus) has ever been able to obey the law completely.

Who can ever perfectly obey these two great commandments all the time? No one! Only when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His love is poured out into our hearts can we begin to obey these commands! Without faith, there can be no true love. Only by faith expressing itself through love can a person inherit eternal life.

The lawyer wasn't happy with Jesus' answer. He knew that he hadn't loved God as he ought or loved all people he knew. He looked down on all Gentiles (or non-Jews). Most Jews would never consider a Gentile to be their neighbour. And the lawyer hoped that Jesus would agree that Gentiles were not 'neighbours' so he didn't feel guilty for not having loved them.

So the lawyer responded with another question, “Who is my neighbour?” The lawyer wanted to justify himself and show how good he was, rather than to learn how bad Jesus knew he was.

But Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan showed the lawyer that all people, not just his friends, were also his neighbours. It was the Samaritan, the non-Jew of the parable, who was obedient to the law and not the two proud religious Jewish men who ignored the plight of the wounded man. Jesus indicated that the Samaritan was closer to receiving the kingdom of heaven than the Jewish priest and Levite. Although these men were considered to be among the most righteous of the Jews, they thought themselves too busy and important to help a nameless, badly-injured man.

Eight times in the Bible we are told to love our neighbours, and this make it one of the Bible’s most repeated commands. Loving our neighbour is the opposite of selfishness, which is the normal human practice and nature. Acting in divine love shows that unselfishness is possible for people. This is a reality that cannot be ignored or denied. Whether our neighbour is thankful or not for what we do or how they respond to our love, Jesus’ command is still the same: we are to show love to our neighbours in practical, obvious and caring ways.

Even though Samaritans and Jews considered each other as enemies, the Samaritan did all he could for the robbed Jew, and even more than could be expected. He took the injured man to a place to receive further care and paid for all his expenses. This is what it means to love your neighbour. In 1 John, Chapter 3, it says: “Let us not love in word or in tongue but with actions and in truth.”

A slave in the West Indies called Caesar by his master gained his freedom and also become a Christian. One day, his master took him to a slave market to buy some young slaves. After the master had filled his requirements, Caesar begged for the purchase of an old tired Negro. The master was reluctant to do so, but purchased the old man for Caesar’s sake.

Soon after they returned to the plantation, the old slave became sick yet Caesar looked after him very carefully. Naturally the master wanted to know if the old slave was a relative or a friend. “No,” replied Caesar. “He is my enemy. While I was still a child, he tore me from my parents and sold me as a slave. But I must love my enemy, Master, I must!”

In Matthew, Chapter 7, the Lord Jesus said, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

If we neglect to love our neighbour, our saying that we love God is actually untrue. For by loving God, the love for our neighbour is developed and by loving our neighbour, our love for God grows.

A young man in Munich Germany awoke one Sunday morning to find that there'd been a fresh fall of snow outside. He debated within himself whether he'd go to the church worship service or stay at home and read the Bible. He grumbled to himself that he had to walk half a block in the freezing cold to catch the bus. But he finally decided to go, as he was the one to lead the singing.

As the young man sat in a comfortable bus, he looked out of the window and saw an elderly couple trying to make their way through the deep snowdrift. The man was blind but was being guided by his wife. Because they couldn't afford to pay the bus fare, they walked the three miles to church every Sunday. They did so because they loved the Lord. The young man sitting on the bus felt ashamed of himself. He thought of the duty that had motivated him and the weak faith and love that he had shown to the Lord. Without their knowledge and without a word, the elderly couple's endurance and faithfulness taught the young man that love for God is the truest motive for attending worship services, and the reason for doing all other things for the Lord.

In both the 1900s and 20th Century, groups of liberal Christians set out to bring about a social Gospel system within the United States. With industrialisation sweeping the country, people left their farming ways of life to live in crowded and dirty cities. The lowest paid workers became unable to provide for their own needs. Social Gospel supporters thought that individuals were set up for failure and sinful lifestyles because the profits of their work went to big business owners.

Social Gospellers, as they were known, tried to help people in poverty by improving their education and health care. These groups believed that if poor people were helped socially and economically, they would leave their sinful ways and addictive habits and become Christians. However, salvation of the individual was considered secondary to working for social improvement and the bringing in of the Kingdom of God here on earth.

At the end of the 19th Century, a popular book promoted the belief that American society would experience a dramatic shift if only the people would base all their actions on the answer to the simple question of, “What would Jesus do?” This same question has been adopted many times over, particularly by Christian evangelists, as a motto for personal spiritual development.

The parable of the Good Samaritan has also become for many these days the social conscience for taking care of the poor, weak and sick, whether they are friend or enemy. As Jesus said in Luke, Chapter 6, Verse 35: “Love your enemies and be kind and do good.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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