



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:
A2084 ~ Saul is Blind.

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

A Christian man injured in a church by a bomb blast said that he forgave the person responsible for planting the bomb. His hands were badly damaged from the blast and he spent the first few months in hospital not knowing whether he was going to be able to tell the difference between day and night. He was angry at first. He didn't blame God but he certainly thought about revenge against those who had hurt him.

Other Christians began to visit him, pray for him and help him to read the Bible. In time, the man's thirst for revenge was replaced by a strong desire to know Christ better. He said: "Before the attack, I wasn't a strong Christian. But after going through what I went through and seeing other Christians go through suffering too, it all brought me closer to Jesus Christ. God gave me a second chance to live in the world and I want to live it for God's glory."

He also said, "For others who are persecuted, they should be strong because we know that Christ faced persecution. They should hold onto their faith; their reward is great in heaven. And they should always forgive their persecutors and pray for them that God should touch their lives and capture them like He captured the Apostle Paul."

In today's *Bible Adventure*, the proud Saul of Tarsus was humbled by a brilliant flash of light from heaven and he couldn't see a thing.

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

While Saul was blind, Jesus Himself spoke personally to him. He said, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul had thought that he was persecuting only people, but now he learned it was in fact, the Lord Himself whom he had been persecuting.

Saul knew at once that he was in the presence of God. However, up until that moment, he hadn't known that the Lord was actually the risen Christ. So Saul asked: “Who are you, Lord?” And he was told, “I am Jesus.”

The next thing Saul said to Jesus was, “What shall I do, Lord?” This was the first step in Saul's conversion. He was ready to do what the Lord wanted. He had given up his own desires and purposes. True conversion always means a change of a person's mind and will.

Years later, when Saul or as he was known as Paul was on trial in Jerusalem, he retold his conversion story, as recorded in Acts, Chapter 22.

Further along in Acts, Chapter 26, Paul was again on trial, this time before King Agrippa and again, he retold his conversion story. The Lord Jesus told a number of things to Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus. Jesus said, “I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.” From then, Jesus appointed Saul to be an apostle.

The men travelling with Saul at the time of his blinding were speechless. They heard the voice but saw no one. Jesus was speaking to Saul in Hebrew so the men may not have understood the language. Someone had to take Saul by the hand and lead him into Damascus.

What a humiliating and humbling position to be in! People in Damascus had heard of Saul's trip and hidden themselves away for safety. If they could have seen Saul then stumbling along without his sight, they would have wondered why they were so afraid of him. His power to harm the Christians in that city had gone as soon as his eyesight went. We also can quickly lose any of the gifts God has given us to do our work each day. A sudden illness or accident can change the whole course of our lives. Believers in Christ know that God is in control of the events of their lives constantly but what happened to Saul?

Saul was taken to a Christian's house and his escort party left him there to return to Jerusalem. Imagine when they returned without him and gave the explanation that he'd been blinded by a flash of lightening in broad daylight!

Imagine the emotional roller coaster that the Christian man Judas, living in Straight Street, Damascus must have gone through for three days. The dreaded Saul of Tarsus, that merciless murderer, was in his own house, claiming he was blind and had been spoken to by the Lord Jesus. Saul stayed there praying for three days and during that time, ate and drank nothing. It was a time of solitude for Saul. He had many hours to pray through all his past sins and ask for forgiveness.

Solitude can be a blessing at times. Some people, and Saul certainly seemed to be one of them, are always rushing from one thing to the next, rarely pausing to think deeply about the most important things of life. The numbers of Christians had thinned out in Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside. Their persecution by Saul had made the next step in God's plan of sending the Gospel to those living further away to succeed. But only a true zealot or someone trying to make a name for himself would ride for five days to attack Christians living in another country.

During those three days, Saul would have recalled many Old Testament Scriptures that he had memorised by heart. So many of them he now would have understood differently from how he had believed them before. He must have been amazed at how easily he had been blinded and deceived by Satan into thinking that Jesus Christ was breaking God's laws and that Saul was doing the right thing to punish His followers.

Some people say they don't believe in Satan. Those same people often reject the existence of God or the punishment of their sins by a burning hell. How could they come to such a position? Some are willingly ignorant of Bible teaching and what it says about the value of their souls. There's nothing more valuable to a person than their eternal soul! Yet some people treat their soul as worthless. Satan is anxious to secure the destruction of such people, so he blinds their eyes and they miss seeing and understanding the saving Light of God. Satan has many different ways of deceiving people.

A blindness to spiritual things is often contrasted with a person's sharpness to the things of this world. A man may be a successful businessman or a gifted musician, but he might be blind to the spiritual truths of God. The many activities of this world may leave no time for doing anything about acquiring spiritual knowledge or a personal relationship with God in heaven.

Some are blinded by Satan over the love for some favourite sin. If a person has a pet sin that they want to keep, they shouldn't be surprised that they can't see the majesty of Christ or the glories of salvation! People get angry when they hear the Gospel and they'll turn away from it if it means that they have to give up some favourite sin they love to indulge in.

Another way in which Satan blinds a great many people is by raising objections to the truth of God. They are prepared to argue that this or that is not right with the Bible. There is nothing in this world that cannot be objected to if people are determined not to believe the facts. God wants all people to confess their blindness and not to try to hide it. In 2 Peter, Chapter 3, it says: “The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

The god of this world, who is Satan, tries to blind unwary believers in Christ but he will also blind the minds of those who don't believe the Bible for one reason or another. It's therefore, a very dangerous position for anyone not to believe on the Son of God. The penalty of unbelief is death and condemnation, and even before they leave this world, this penalty begins to fall on them. Their foolish hearts are darkened and their minds lose the power to perceive spiritual things. God's Spirit won't always strive with people who consistently refuse to have anything to do with Him.

How could Saul change so drastically from a life of spiritual blindness into a New Testament apostle and writer? Scholars today consider Saul, who was later known by his Roman name of Paul, to be one of the eight most influential people in the history of the world.

The change in his life came about by God's amazing grace, and grace alone transformed him. He had been a bitter enemy of the Gospel but became known as an ambassador of Christ.

Regardless how each person starts out the Christian life, we all have a dark side, no matter how we appear to others. That includes you and me. Human nature is at its core turned away from God, who is the source of all that is good. That's why it should come as no surprise to us when an individual so respected as the apostle Paul had such a scandalous past. We all do to some extent. Paul wrote in Romans, Chapter 3, that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All of us have a past stained by sin.

The good news is that regardless of what you've done, you are not beyond hope. Neither was Saul. There's nothing in your past beyond the reach of God's warm embrace in Christ. His grace reaches to the lowest valley, no matter where you've been or where you are now.

Our theme song for *Bible Adventures* says, "No sin too big, no problem too small, Jesus is Lord of all." So if you're ashamed of some of your past, don't hang back from asking for forgiveness. Even though your past is spoiled, you can find a new beginning with God. Isn't that the best news ever! It's never too late to start doing what's right. You can begin again because of God's grace. Like Saul, you aren't chained to your sinful past. The Lord's grace gives you a fresh new start for today and tomorrow.

In Isaiah, Chapter 55, Verse 6, it says: "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." God is merciful and quick to forgive, so don't put off or delay with excuses from speaking to Him.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
