



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2099 ~ Peter Goes to Mary's House.

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

When we watch a school child, we can wonder what the future will hold for this young person. And in the same way, when we see a new Christian, we can ponder what God might have in store in the years ahead for this person to achieve for His kingdom. Toward the end of their lives, many Christians are amazed at what God has used them to do for Him.

The Apostle Peter was one of the prominent men in Jesus' group of disciples while He was on the earth. Peter went on to be a leader in the new church in Jerusalem. He travelled around and later in life, wrote two letters to the churches in the northern parts of Asia Minor, which are included in the New Testament. Asia Minor is the territory most covered by present-day Turkey.

The Christians in Asia Minor were experiencing much suffering and persecution and Peter wanted to encourage them to continue trusting in the Lord Jesus. Christians living in this hostile world are to suffer as Christ suffered while allowing the grace of God to be displayed in their lives. Although unpleasant, suffering produces character, as well as a closer communion and dependence on God; it also provides a catalyst to pray for one's enemies and to spread the Gospel in Jesus' Name in a passionate and new way.

In the second of his letters, Peter warned the Christians against accepting errors in doctrine brought into the churches by false teachers. In Chapter 2, Peter said: "They will bring in destructive, untrue doctrines, and will deny the Master who redeemed them, and so they will bring upon themselves sudden destruction ... In their greed these false teachers will make a profit out of telling you made-up stories." And these words are a warning for every generation thereafter once Peter wrote them.

A favourite verse in Chapter 3 says that God is not willing that anyone should be destroyed but wants everyone to turn away from their sins. In today's *Bible Adventure* drama, we find Peter standing at the door to Mary's house at midnight knocking to be let in. An angel had just escorted him out of prison and saved his life from sure execution by Herod the next morning.

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

Peter went to the house where many were praying for him, even though it was now about midnight. He knocked and a girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she heard Peter's voice, she became so excited that she didn't slip the latch to let him in but ran inside to tell everyone Peter was outside. Of course they didn't believe her! Why not? They may have been praying that the following day Peter would give a brilliant sermon before being martyred as Stephen had been. Even though an angel had delivered Peter from prison once before, it doesn't seem to be in their thinking that God would do it again.

Despite the intense prayer lifted up by the church for Peter, their reaction to the answer they received was surprising disbelief. At times, we can all miss the answers to prayer God gives. We're so focused on looking for the answer we're expecting, or that we want, that we miss the answer God actually provides. When we do that, we miss out on the joy of answered prayer.

When we survey the Scriptures, we may wonder at God's plans for different Bible heroes. We can ask why God saved Peter twice from prison but James was killed before he even went to prison once? We humans cannot easily understand the purposes of God but need to accept that we don't really need to know these things. His plan for each person's life is different. We must live by the principle that God is our Heavenly Father and that He wants to have a relationship with each of His children.

All true born-again believers are His children and He is a perfect parent. We're not like a herd of animals grouped together but dealt with individually. God's love for each of us is perfect so we mustn't act like spoilt children who look at what someone else has or does and become envious of them.

If we are allowed to learn the realities of life lived by those who seem to be so much more blessed than we are, it becomes evident that the rosy picture we often see is not actually the real one. As any loving parent knows, each child has completely individual needs and abilities to grow and learn. Those needs and abilities are all taken into consideration when guidance, discipline, gifts and responsibilities are given.

All genuine believers have favour with the Lord, but can lose their blessings and favour. Believers should be concerned about falling out of God's favour by replacing God's interests with self-interests and selfish-motives. Nations around the world too, have lost God's blessings and favour by placing their own self-seeking interests before His.

The book of Haggai in the Old Testament teaches us all to give priority to God's work if we are to prosper. The prophet Haggai explained to the people rebuilding Jerusalem that God had withdrawn His blessings because they were so concerned with building comfortable mansions for themselves that they'd forgotten about His Temple, which remained in ruins.

After Peter was finally let into the house and had spoken about his next experience with an angel, Peter asked that his story be told to James and the other believers. Then he left for another place to hide from the soldiers, who would no doubt be looking for him as soon as it was daylight.

When prayer is answered, we should be thankful and filled with joy. The early church should have been grateful and filled with joy that Peter wasn't slain. King Herod thereafter also stopped his persecution and moved out of Jerusalem.

How can we be filled with joy? The Lord Himself is the source of true joy. The more believers in Him love Him, know Him, walk with Him and become like Him, the greater their joy will be. God promises a reward when you endure difficult circumstances through your faith. Waiting for this eternal reward gives joy in the middle of difficulties. Temporary suffering will be replaced by a greater joy that lasts. In Hebrews, Chapter 10, it says: "Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep His promise."

But what happens when we lose our joy in the Lord? Many Christian leaders and pastors rushing on from one task to the next find that as the years go by they suffer from burnout, too many stressful situations and loss of their joy for ministry. Some feel like they're on an express train but they can't get off. They fall into discouragement and depression because they want to do their best for everyone but time seems to be an enemy. So they neglect their devotional time reading God's Word for their own spiritual nourishment. Prayer times are rushed and soon God seems to be far away.

This can happen to any believer who is overloaded with commitments. At such low times, along comes Satan to plant a deceptive thought in our mind. That thought might grow in our mind as we try to reason out the benefits of acting on this thought. When the enemy of our souls plants an unscriptural idea in the mind, we have two choices: cast it down or meditate on it.

If we want to win the battle against such thoughts, we must take hold of Scriptures that instruct us about the battle in our mind. Paul told us in II Corinthians, Chapter 10, "The weapons we use in our fight are not the world's weapons, which we use to destroy strongholds. We destroy false arguments; we pull down every proud obstacle that is raised against the knowledge of God; we take every thought captive and make it obey Christ."

No one can take your thoughts captive for you. In I Peter, Chapter 1, it says: "Have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. Be obedient to God, and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. Instead be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy."

Paul also offered this advice in Philippians, Chapter 4: "Fill your minds with those things that are good and deserve praise; things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable. Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you." If we think about what the Bible says to meditate on, the enemy's thoughts won't take root in our souls.

In Proverbs, Chapter 15, it says: "The Lord ... delights in the prayers of the upright." Can weak humans actually bring joy and delight to the Lord, the Creator of the universe? The Lord says yes. God created you because He wants to have a relationship with you. But you must also want a relationship with Him. A good relationship goes both ways and is built on principles that are simple to understand but sometimes difficult to practice. These principles are trust, routine fellowship, humility to admit your mistakes and sins, devoted service and unconditional love.

Whatever happens in your life, remember Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 4, which says: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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