



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2104 ~ The Gentiles Believe.

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

Some Christians seem to avoid going to church services except for the really big events. They say that they can get better teaching from a TV program or a music CD at home rather than sitting inside a church. But often there can be hidden reasons why they are not going to church. In Hebrews, Chapter 10, it says: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some.”

In today’s *Bible Adventure*, the people attending a Jewish synagogue in Pisidia Antioch, located inland in present-day Turkey, had just heard the Apostle Paul preach a sermon explaining how God had prepared the Jewish people for their coming Messiah. Paul presented many prophecies that the Lord Jesus Christ had fulfilled as the appointed Messiah. But the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem at the time failed to recognise Him as their Lord and leader because they were waiting for a political person who would rid them of the controlling Roman Empire.

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

After Paul had finished speaking his great sermon in the synagogue, he warned those Jews present not to reject the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the Jews and many of the Gentiles who had converted to Judaism accepted Paul's teaching. They even asked to hear more. They'd heard many sermons in their lifetime but never one like this!

On the following Saturday, most of the city people came together to hear God's Word preached. The large crowd coming to hear Paul caused the Jewish leaders to become jealous of him. They feared that the Gentile converts would no longer visit the synagogue but would follow Paul instead. So the Jewish leaders began to oppose Paul and his teaching.

Paul and Barnabas boldly told the Jews that the Word of God was to be taught to the Jews first but since they had rejected its message and judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life, Paul and Barnabas would now teach the Gentiles. The Jews knew the Scriptures and they should have accepted Christ. If they had done so, they would have received eternal life and become a wonderful light to the Gentiles. This is what God had wanted Israel to be.

Paul quoted from Isaiah, Chapter 40: "I (the Lord) have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the ends of the earth." When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and all those appointed for eternal life believed.

God first chooses us to believe in His wonderful good news. Then He calls us and He draws us so close so we will understand and believe. We come to Christ by God's grace, or favour that we haven't earned. But remember, just like those Jews who listened and then rejected Paul's message, we too are free to refuse God's grace and not believe in His message to us.

Whenever God begins to do a great work, Satan is always right there to oppose it. When God opens up a door of opportunity for service, there we shall find opposition. And sadly Satan often uses God-fearing leaders to do his work. But in spite of this opposition to Paul, the word of the Lord spread through the whole region. The new believers were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit and they shared their new faith with their neighbours. In the same way, if we ourselves have truly believed in Christ, we will want to share with others the salvation we've received.

The Jewish leaders influenced the prominent women and men to persecute Paul and Barnabas and expell them from their region. As they left, Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their feet in protest against them. In Mark's Gospel, Chapter 6, Jesus had sent out His 12 disciples on their own to preach and learn that even when Jesus wasn't with them, they had His authority and power over evil spirits and every kind of sickness.

Any home or town that didn't accept the disciples' message or offer them hospitality became unworthy and undeserving of the Gospel message. The disciples were to shake the dust of such a home or town off their feet as a sign of judgment against that place.

Paul and Barnabas completely turned their backs on the hostile Jews. Those who reject Christ's servants will themselves be rejected. The Jews of Pisidia Antioch had lost an important opportunity to hear and receive Christ's salvation. Paul and Barnabas then moved on to the next city, Iconium.

Notice in this record how jealousy led to slander and a whispering campaign against the two servants of God. This jealousy resulted in persecution for Paul and Barnabas but the ones who started it all were the bigger losers. They lost everything because a number of them lost eternal life with the Lord Jesus.

Some people wonder what is so wrong with telling stories that criticise Christians and expose their faults to others. In Proverbs, Chapter 20, it says: “A gossip can never keep a secret. Stay away from people who talk too much.” Words spoken to harm others don’t bring glory to God.

In Psalm 15, it says: “Those who obey God in everything and always do what is right, whose words are true and sincere, and who do not slander others, they do no wrong to their friends nor spread rumours about their neighbours.”

In contrast, a person who loves to gossip tries to pick up clues and scraps of information about another person’s character and lifestyle. These bits of information are then shared with anyone who will listen. Gossip is subtle because it can hide itself in ‘acceptable’ language. People will say, "Have you heard ...?" or "I personally don't believe it's true, but I did hear that ...". Or, "I wouldn't normally share this, but I know you won't let it go any further. Keep this to yourself."

Of course, we Christians like to wrap gossip in spiritual language: "I need to tell you this about so-and-so so you can pray for them." But how often do we really follow through and make what we hear a matter of loving and concerned prayer?

Closely related to gossiping and the evil speaking of others is flattery. Flattery is just a fancy lie. It's when you say something that deep-down, isn't really the truth, but you say it anyway to win a person's favour, attention or approval. A good definition of gossip and flattery is this: Gossip is saying behind a person's back what you would never say to his or her face. Flattery is saying to a person's face what you would never say behind his or her back.

The three essential rules when speaking about others are: Is it true? Is it kind? And is it necessary? That is why James tells us in Chapter 3 of his book, "If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body." This is a mark of true spirituality.

One of the signs of genuine ministry to the Gospel is an unflinching commitment to the Truth. Paul didn't weaken or smooth over his words to make them more acceptable to the Jews. And in these last times before the Lord Jesus returns to earth for His believers, it is no time for preachers to soften the truths of Scripture to make them less demanding on nonbelievers.

One pastor said in a series of lectures that there's a great need for churches to reaffirm their commitment to proclaim the Word of God. Much evangelical preaching has become powerless and yet few realise it. The Holy Spirit has departed the message and in some cases, the messenger, while lesser things like alternative worship styles and business strategies to build up the church, have taken over the time for the essential preaching of the Word.

A young man went for an interview to be accepted into a theological college. He was asked, "Would you be happy doing anything else with your life?" He thought about it for a bit before answering sincerely, "No, I would not be happy doing anything else but this. I am firmly committed to serving Christ for the rest of my life." A year later that young man found out that if he had answered with any other response, they wouldn't have accepted him for a Bible study course.

In Psalm 119, Verse 9, it says: "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word (O Lord)."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
