



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2143 ~ The Shipwreck.

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

Have you ever been out in a boat and the waves started getting rough? You want to concentrate on your fishing rod but you're feeling sick in the stomach? The rolling and constant motion makes you wish you were back on dry land? Well, the Apostle Paul was chained to a soldier every hour of the day and night and the ship they were sailing in to Rome had been lost at sea in a severe storm for nearly 2 whole weeks. During that time, everyone on board felt too sick and miserable to try and eat any food. Unbeknown to them, their ship was being blown westward by the wind to that part of the Mediterranean Sea that was known as the Adriatic Sea.

Towards the end of the fortnight, Paul told all the people on board about a visit that he had from an angel of God, who told him that everyone would be saved but the ship would be destroyed. Paul encouraged the people to eat some food so they'd be ready for whatever happened next.

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On the 14th night of such rough weather, the sailors sensed that they were nearing land. They tested to see how deep the water was and found after a couple of readings that they were coming close to an island. Fearful that the ship would be smashed on the surrounding rocks, they put out 4 anchors on the back section of the ship to hold it from drifting and waited out for daylight.

Some of the sailors feared that the ship wouldn't last through the night before it broke up. By pretending to put out anchors from the front of the ship, they started lowering the life boat with the intention of deserting the ship and escaping ashore. Paul warned the soldiers not to let the sailors desert the ship or they wouldn't be saved. The sailors were needed in the morning to get the ship closer to the shore. As it was, they were still too far out at sea for anyone to swim to land and so they needed that lifeboat. But to prevent the sailors from escaping, the soldiers cut the ropes holding the lifeboat and they let it float away.

While it was still dark, the sailors then threw all the grain that the ship had been carrying overboard. The lighter the ship, the higher in the water it would sit and the closer it could get to shore before running aground. This would make it much easier for everyone to get to land safely. When daylight did arrive, the sailors tried to run the ship onto a sandy beach that they could see but instead, it ran into a hidden sandbar. With the front part of the ship stuck fast in the sand, the waves very quickly started to break up the back part of the old ship.

According to Roman law, whenever a prisoner escaped, the soldier guarding him was given the prisoner's punishment. So to prevent any of the prisoners from escaping, the soldiers decided to kill them all! But Julius, the centurion in charge of the soldiers, wanted to spare Paul. He knew it was because of Paul that everyone's life had been saved to this point. So he prevented the soldiers from killing any of the prisoners and they all swam or used pieces of wreckage to get to shore. In this way and just as the angel had declared, everyone on the ship was spared and reached land safely. God kept His promise to Paul. God always keeps His promises because He's God and He doesn't tell lies or forget what He has said.

In this present time, we live in the Age of God's Mercy. Any person, no matter how bad or sinful they've been in their life, can come to the Lord Jesus asking for mercy and begging forgiveness for their many sins. By acknowledging that no one else can help them with their sin problem, a person's belief or trust that Jesus Christ can deal with their sins becomes their 'saving faith.' All living human beings need this salvation to save them from God's fierce anger at the sin and wickedness taking place on earth as it's presently controlled by Satan. The details are in Revelation Chapters 6 to 18.

The Lord Jesus does not turn away anyone who sincerely asks Him to save them. He takes the person out of Satan's ownership and kingdom and He places them in His own kingdom, giving them the Holy Spirit to live within them as proof that they've been changed from bad to good. Each day from then on, they live by faith daily, believing that God's plan for their life is the only one to follow.

Becoming a believer in Christ means that there'll be times of falling back into sin. The new believer desires to have a clear conscience at all times; as soon as the person realises he's done something wrong, he comes to Jesus urgently in prayer asking for forgiveness. God's promise to such people is that in the world beyond this one, they will live with Him forever in truly amazing glory and circumstances.

Some people call themselves Christians and try to live day-by-day in faith but they don't have the saving faith that they need to start with – they haven't truly surrendered themselves to Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Even though they don't see it, they're still in Satan's kingdom.

They, along with all those who have rejected or neglected God's offer of free salvation, have a promise from God too. For God has promised in 2 Thessalonians, Chapter 1, that all those who reject God and those who do not obey the Good News about our Lord Jesus will suffer in torment in the place reserved for Satan and his demons.

The Age of God's Mercy will one day come to an end; and no one knows exactly when. But there are many signs that show this day isn't far away. The nation of Israel is watched as God's timepiece. Israelites have returned to their nation in unbelief but their interest in the things of God is increasing. They particularly want to build their next temple. God has promised the Jews in Ezekiel, Chapter 37 that He would take the children of Israel from among the nations and bring them into their own land ... Then they shall be His people and He will be their God.

At the end of the Age of God's Mercy, the Lord Jesus will call out to those who trusted in Him. People will rise from their graves and those still living each day for Him will be caught away from the world to be in heaven, safe as promised from the great distress caused during the following seven years of God's anger against sin and wickedness on the earth. May you give much thought to where you will spend eternity! God's promises to each group are guaranteed!

In 1829, Alexander Duff, the first foreign missionary of the Church of Scotland, sailed away from his homeland to do his life's work in India. Alexander was only 23 years old and with his new wife, was shipwrecked – not once but twice! The most serious wreck happened when the ship he was a passenger on was within a few miles of India.

At ten o'clock at night, a shock and a shudder ran through the vessel. Alexander rushed to the deck where the captain met him with terrifying words, "Oh, she's gone! She's gone!" The ship split apart but a portion clung to the reef. Through the night, the passengers huddled in terror in the surviving portion, expecting every moment to be swept away. They were saved the next day but their clothes and prized possessions were lost, including Alexander's entire library of 800 books.

Later, standing on the shore and looking sadly toward the reef, Alexander saw a small package bobbing on top of the water. He watched and waited as it floated close enough for him to wade out and retrieve it. It was his Bible. Of all his precious books, it alone survived. His heart soared, for he took it as a sign from the Lord that this one book alone was worth more than all the others put together.

He assembled his fellow survivors and read Psalm 107, the Traveller's Psalm. Soon, and using the same Bible, Alexander began his first class with a little group of five boys under a tree. Within a week, the class had grown to 300 and soon, it became a school that evangelised and educated the higher classes in India, producing a qualified generation of leaders for the nation's young church.

In 1st Timothy, Chapter 1, Paul exhorts Timothy to keep his faith and a clear conscience at all times. Paul goes on to say that some people have not listened to their conscience and instead, they've made a shipwreck or ruin of their faith. One of the ways people do this is a step-by-step advance into compromising with the world. But any compromise with the world, whether in doctrine, morals or relationships, has disastrous consequences for both our own future and coming generations'.

We should live in such a way that unbelievers could look at us and say, "There's something different about that person. Something that is desirable, something admirable." They may laugh at you at times, but deep in their hearts, they may greatly respect you. The compromising person, on the other hand, reaches no one. Compromise begins with leaving your first love for Jesus Christ, which leads ultimately to immorality, idolatry and many other sins.

The Bible gives us an example in Revelation, Chapter 2, of such a church: it was Pergamos in Asia Minor. Known for its rampant idolatry, this region was the centre of Caesar worship. Idolatry, wickedness and sexual immorality were commonplace. The sin of Pergamos was its tolerance of evil, which was a sort of have-your-cake-and-eat-it-too philosophy.

Sadly, this is how many people want it today. They want to go to church — when they get around to it. They certainly want to go to heaven, but they still want to live in sin. They want to party and serve themselves and commit immorality, telling lies when necessary, cheating if they have to, stealing if it suits them, and hating others and getting revenge when someone crosses them.

It's the idea of sinning to your heart's content and telling yourself God will understand. This is completely false. If you think you can sin to your heart's content without repercussions; if you think you can go out and break the commandments of God over and over because you're an exception to the rule, then you're deceiving yourself. And the human heart is the most deceitful about who we are.

In many areas, the modern church has lost its theological foundation or its God-centeredness. Instead of pastors teaching truth and integrity to help their congregations come to know and live in submission to a holy God, often they take a business manager role and exercise running an organisation. They market the church into a community to help people find personal fulfilment and good feelings. This means that many pastors stand or fall today by their personalities rather than their godly character. One author argues that the church has so blended in with modern ways that God and the Gospel can be promoted as just another self-help method.

Show me a person who is not living in close fellowship with God and I will show you a person who is on the way to bigger problems. It's only a matter of time. The best antidote to the attractions and temptations of this world is a passionate love relationship with Jesus Christ Himself. He's preparing for us to meet His greatest treasure – His very own Father.

If there's a breakdown in your relationship with God, it's only a matter of time until compromises start making their way into your life. Then you'll start lowering your standards here and there and not seeking God's cleansing forgiveness as you start to stumble along and make more and more undesirable decisions. Keep your guard up. Stay close to Jesus; let the fire of your first love burn brightly inside. Then you'll be strong and have the power and resolve that you need to live a holy life that pleases your Lord.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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