



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2156 ~ Jesus Eats the Passover Meal.**

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

In today's *Bible Adventure*, Jesus desired to eat His last Passover meal with His disciples. The Passover was also called the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, which was celebrated by the Jews for a week as they remembered their ancestors' hurried and miraculous exit from Egypt which is recorded in the first Bible book, Genesis.

When the disciples asked Jesus where He wanted to eat the Passover, Jesus gave them an unusual answer. Jesus knew that the Jewish rulers and chief priests were ever on the lookout to find Him and seize Him. He didn't reveal the name of a place when they asked. Rather, He told Peter and John to go into the city and meet a man carrying a big container of water. They were to follow him to the house where he was going. It was usually the work of women and children to fetch water for a household. To see a lone man carrying water meant that it was a sign that they would get to the right place.

Today's drama is recorded in John, Chapter 13.

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When the Lord Jesus took over a servant's duty and washed His disciples' feet before eating their meal, the disciples had been disagreeing over who was the most important in their group. As they watched Jesus work, they felt ashamed by His example.

Humility is a God-given trait that cares about others and looks out for their best interests. Humility isn't a highly sought-after character trait these days. The reason for this is that many people have forgotten about the greatness of God. The less knowledge we have about something, the more insignificant that it becomes. If we don't pray to God, spend time thinking about Him or doing things to show our love for Him, we can become self-promoting and arrogant. A godly, humble person always acknowledges their dependence on God first, asking God for guidance and blessing in whatever they do.

The instructions for partaking in the Passover meal were given by God to Moses. The Hebrew people followed these instructions, which reminded them of the quick meal eaten just prior to Moses leading them out of the land of Egypt at night at the end of their time as slaves.

God promised to give Abraham an inheritance of land to be kept forever. God also made a similar promise to his son Isaac and Isaac's second son Jacob, whom God renamed as Israel.

Israel had 12 sons, his favourite being his 11<sup>th</sup> son Joseph. The other brothers were jealous of Joseph and ended up selling him into slavery to some traders who took him to Egypt. In Egypt, Joseph went through a number of humbling experiences, including years spent in prison after being falsely accused of disloyalty.

Had God forgotten Joseph in such a terrible time? No! He hadn't. God gave Joseph visions and dreams and in time, God also gave the king of Egypt a dream as well. No one could interpret the king's dream but a man who was a former prisoner in the same jail as Joseph remembered Joseph's God-given ability to interpret dreams. As a result, Joseph was given opportunity to tell the meaning of the king's dream and be rewarded for it. The message to the king was from God. God was telling the king there were going to be seven years of severe famine or drought in the land after seven years of good harvests had passed. Joseph was put in charge of looking after Egypt's food supply, storage and distribution network, for the king believed the dream's message and Joseph ended up saving many people's lives.

When the famine affected Canaan, the land where Israel and his family were living, Israel sent some of his sons to Egypt to buy food from there. Joseph recognised his brothers straight away and set up some situations to see if they had changed their ways since selling him into slavery. They had and Joseph was reunited with his estranged family.

Joseph had his father and all his relatives relocated to Egypt until the famine was over. He gave them good farming land within the Nile River delta region. But when the famine was over, the family decided to settle in Egypt and didn't make plans to return to their land in Canaan.

They prospered in Egypt and many children were born to them there. Before Joseph died, he made his descendants give him a solemn promise that when they left Egypt, they were to take his bones back to the Promised Land for burial.

The Children of Israel prospered so greatly over the next few hundred years that the Egyptians became afraid of them and thought that by sheer numbers alone, they would take over the land. A new ruler who didn't know about Joseph's service for the country came to the throne and implemented harsh measures to stop the numbers of Hebrew people from increasing any further. They were made into slaves and had to work hard under difficult conditions on the ruler's building projects.

The people cried out to God for help. He heard their cries and sent Moses to Egypt's ruler to ask that he let the Hebrews go. For a little while after this, things grew much worse for the slaves. The ruler refused so God sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians. The last one was death of the firstborn males of both animals and people living in houses where the blood of a sacrificial lamb had not been painted on the doorposts. The blood protected the people inside as the Angel of Death passed over Egypt and killed all the firstborn males.

God gave instructions to the Hebrew people to remember the feast of Passover each year so they wouldn't forget it. Many Jews today still prepare for the Passover meal each year. When they recall God's protection and provision on their ancestors, not only in crossing the Red Sea but taking care of their needs for 40 years of wilderness wanderings, they intend to do so with a spirit of thankfulness. God wants us to remember all His goodness to us.

The Passover meal is a time of family worship in the Jewish home where children can ask questions about why their parents are doing such things and what they must mean. If the children of every generation aren't taught to read the Scriptures and respect the things of God, they will not grow up having anything of value to teach their own children. Jewish people living alone are invited into a neighbour's house for the occasion of the Passover, so that no one forgets. The dates for Passover and Easter are calculated in different ways and can be a few weeks apart in some years.

Although Jesus celebrated the Passover, Christians remember with thankfulness at Easter time Jesus' death that can redeem people of all generations and His resurrection victory over Satan when He rose from the grave. Jesus is the all-sufficient sacrificial lamb and is never to die again.

In Matthew, Chapter 26 and Mark, Chapter 14, Judas Iscariot visited the chief priests and scribes, offering to betray Jesus before the time of the Passover meal had come. In Luke, Chapter 22, it says that Satan entered Judas' heart and he then went to the chief priests. They offered him 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus into their hands. In Exodus, Chapter 21, 30 pieces of silver was listed as the price of a slave. Judas had evil intent against Jesus when he first went to the chief priests.

Judas Iscariot didn't have to let Satan into his heart and mind. He could have remained loyal to Jesus. It was predicted in Psalm 41 that a familiar friend would act as a traitor against Jesus. The big question is: If Satan could enter the mind of Judas, can he at any time enter our minds?

There are many ways Satan can enter a person's mind. If we're believers in Christ, but don't hold to the principles taught in Scripture, the moral stand on many issues are easily watered down or compromised. For example, is it OK to tell small lies, just not the big ones? When the principle of always telling the truth is violated, Satan finds it much easier to tempt us with other ideas that are contrary to Scripture. Another example is helping ourselves to other people's property – could this actually be stealing in God's sight? We need to seek God's truth and not let Satan help us justify our wrongdoings as being small sins and therefore acceptable.

We can give Satan a foothold or opportunity into our mind through reading God-dishonouring books or watching immoral movies or programs on TV, or playing violent video games. Anything that reduces our sensitivity for worshipping God and respecting others should be avoided. If we have already done such, we should repent of this behaviour, asking God to wipe away the memory and attraction of repeating that subtle yet evil thing.

Satan can even throw us off track by distractions. When some evil idea comes into our mind that is different from what God says in the Scriptures, we must instantly reject it and command Satan to leave us in Jesus' name. In Psalm 103, Verse 3, David says: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Should we dare ask God what His benefits are? Listed in this psalm are: Forgiveness for all our sins, healing for our diseases, being kept from the grave, being blest with love and mercy, having our lives filled with good things so that we can stay strong in our Lord. All of these things should bring a response of thankfulness within us and praise to God.

If you don't already have a relationship with God and His risen Son Jesus, you can't expect to receive God's benefits or help. Pray to the Lord Jesus today and ask Him to be the Lord and Saviour of your life; admit your sins to Him; accept by faith that He is the only one way to achieve acceptance with God. Get help in starting to read the Bible by asking other godly Christians to help you understand these things. May God bless you as you search and find Him!

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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