



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2161 ~ Peter Denies Jesus.**

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

Have you ever been talking with a co-worker, relative or neighbour and they've taken over the conversation to boast about their achievements or abilities? Some people, especially those who live alone, can be more likely to do this than others. For most people, however, the human heart fosters a competitive spirit and strives to boast about any of their personal successes! Even professing Christians may boast of their exploits; not for the glory of God but rather for their own praise.

If a Christian, we must guard our tongues carefully to make sure that we don't fall into this sinful activity. To boast is to glorify oneself and to talk in a self-admiring way. God says, "Love does not brag and is not arrogant."

Just before the Lord Jesus led His disciples into the Garden of Gethsemane, He warned them that that very night, that all of them would stumble, fall away and desert Him. Peter strongly objected to hearing this and retorted back that even if the others fell away, he wouldn't. Was Peter boasting here of his own abilities and loyalty to Jesus? After being with Jesus for three years, wouldn't Peter have come to realize that if Jesus said something would happen, it would most certainly take place?

Jesus replied to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” Peter responded, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And the Bible says all the other disciples said the same thing as well. Yet when the disciples were sleeping in the Garden, they should have been taking the opportunity to pray about Jesus’ prediction and what it meant.

This *Bible Adventure* is about Peter’s failure to live up to his words.

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

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When Annas sent Jesus bound to the palace of Caiaphas, the Roman soldiers proceeded to their quarters and left the temple officials in charge of Jesus. John was known to Caiaphas’ staff and was able to get into the courtyard. He was also successful in getting entrance for Peter.

Yet as Jesus had predicted, just at the simple questions of a young girl and others, Peter found his heart full of fear. In quick reaction, he tried to hide behind a clear denial of even knowing Jesus, let alone being His follower. Peter would have been much better to admit he was a disciple of Jesus. When Jesus looked at him across the courtyard, Peter knew Jesus’ prophecy had come true. In total remorse and shame at what he had done, Peter left the courtyard to hide and weep bitterly.

Peter was so very disappointed with himself. He had refused to accept in his mind that it was God's plan that Jesus was going to suffer and die. He'd loved Jesus yet when in very difficult circumstances, he utterly failed Him. Sometimes in our lives, there can be a sudden change of circumstances that we never could have expected. A death in the family or a serious accident, even civil unrest, can cause us to react in ways that we didn't know we could. Satan is always looking for any opportunity to destroy our faith in Jesus and especially our witness for Him.

We need to remember that Satan doesn't know the future like God does; he didn't know what was going to happen to Jesus once arrested either. If he had known that Jesus would rise victorious over death, he would never have incited the Jewish rulers to kill Jesus. He thought that when Jesus was dead, he'd remain dead and so would His testimony and power in the Godhead. But what a big mistake for Satan – his own evil returned onto him with certain defeat!

Judas Iscariot didn't expect Jesus' arrest or illegal trial either. But once Jesus was tied up and taken into the city, Judas realised what he'd done. Guilt tormented him too. Guilt can play out the bad scenes in our minds over and over again. There's no point in thinking about "if only, if I'd done such and such" in regret or remorse. Guilt needs to be dealt with or it will destroy our spiritual life. If we're not careful, guilt can turn our thinking into believing that we're a total failure.

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our unworthy deeds, we feel a sense of guilt that is appropriate. If our conscience is troubling us, the first thing we need to do is admit to ourselves that we did the wrong thing. We then need to confess whatever we've done wrong to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness. Although there are usually ongoing consequences to be dealt with and apologies to be made, we are in a position God has given us for a fresh start.

When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned to die, Judas deeply regretted what he'd done. This remorse wasn't true repentance but instead, regret that comes from an unclean conscience. Judas thought that he could clear his conscience by returning the 30 silver pieces he'd received from the chief priests for betraying Jesus. But even to this day, no one respects a traitor. Returning the money did nothing for easing Judas' conscience.

Without true repentance, a person's heart cannot be cleansed. Although Judas confessed his sin to the priests and elders, they didn't care about his bad conscience. They were so hardened by their own that they wanted to kill an innocent man if it meant they could return to their controlling ways over the people and continue their profiteering system of selling over-priced animals for Temple sacrifice.

Peter had been the leader of the disciples. In time after Jesus' resurrection, Peter was restored in His relationship with the Lord Jesus. But not so with Judas! He never humbled himself before God or cried out for mercy; nor did he utterly turn from his sin. The chief priests and elders didn't comfort him or offer hope of reconciliation with God. So he was left in his terror and despair. He so hated himself that he went and hanged himself. As he was dying or shortly after he had, he fell down headlong and his body split open onto the ground.

The chief priests had been happy to take the money from the temple treasury to pay Judas. But they weren't happy about putting the same money Judas had returned back into the treasury. They called it 'blood money' and decided to use it by buying the very field where Judas had killed himself and in Judas' name. The rulers then set aside that field as a burial ground for any non-Jewish people who died in Jerusalem.

When the disappointments of life come, how do we deal with them? When we're disappointed in our own behaviour or place in one's life, one of the most popular ways to deal with our pain is to find a way to escape it temporarily. The entertainment industry has many ways that we can think about other things and distract ourselves from our consciences inside. We can keep ourselves busy by watching a movie or DVD and maybe even identify ourselves with the hero. Escapism makes us feel better about ourselves. The promoting of good self-esteem by humanist educators has been a favourite way of escaping from one's guilty conscience also.

God doesn't want us to feel good about our sin at all. He wants us to feel so bad about it that we come to Him to confess our shortcomings and ask for His forgiveness. Then it's time to turn away from our self-centred thoughts. God can't work with a person who's full of their own ego or plans and desires.

When our abilities aren't up to what our competitive spirit would like, we can easily blame God for not giving us a stronger body or mind. But does this help? God has a plan for each person and gives the abilities needed to fulfil that plan. It's when we want our plan and us to be most important that we then realise that we can't be. Being a follower of Christ means linking up with God and following His plan as our life-long priority! We must continually surrender our ambitions, wants and desires to Him and allow His way to take precedence.

When Peter betrayed Jesus saying that he didn't even know the Lord Jesus, he felt under intense pressure at the time to protect himself. Each year, thousands of believers in Christ around the world come under this same pressure and temptation when they're arrested and beaten for being a Christian. The big advantage we now have is the Holy Spirit. After Jesus ascended back to heaven He gave the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers who love Christ with a sincere heart. It's the Holy Spirit who helps each one of us to endure.

An African man in prison for his faith in Jesus had been beaten a number of times and urged to go back to the religion that he'd been born into. He was tired of the beatings and thought about giving in. But the Holy Spirit warned him not to and strengthened him to endure more. The man was able to tell his tormentors that they could beat him as much as they liked but he wasn't going to change his mind. Later after he was released, he told how the Holy Spirit had warned him not to deny Jesus when he felt overcome by the situation.

In Matthew, Chapter 10, Jesus said, "Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven. But those who deny Me publicly, I will deny before my Father in heaven." In God's sight, there can be no such thing as a 'secret believer'. Those who follow Christ secretly will be required to own up or show that they are not really Christians.

We must acknowledge Jesus before people. Otherwise, on the Day of Judgment, Jesus will say to God that He doesn't know us. In Romans, Chapter 10, verses 9 and 10, it says: "If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved."

Jesus is our intercessor. If He speaks in our favour, God accepts us and saves us. To the extent that we speak on Jesus' behalf before people, to that extent Jesus will speak on our behalf before God and His angels. But if we're afraid or ashamed to confess we are followers of Christ on earth, then Jesus indicates He won't acknowledge us either on the Day of Judgment.

In 2 Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 12, the Apostle Paul says: “If we continue to endure, we shall also rule with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. But if we are unfaithful, He will remain faithful, as He cannot deny Himself.” To reign with Christ, we must stand firm during our trials on this earth and endure in the power and victory of Christ to the very end of our lives. When we stumble and fall into sin, God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us, provided we repent and turn away from our known sin. God is so good!

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

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