



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A2192 ~ Jacob Works for a Wife.**

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

After Jacob had escaped from his very angry brother Esau at home, he travelled a long way on foot to Haran, which is in present-day Syria. He arrived safely at the same well where Abraham's servant had met his mother, Rebekah. Rebekah's brother, Laban, had two daughters. The elder daughter called Leah, had poor eyesight while the younger daughter Rachel was a lovely shepherdess.

Rachel arrived at the well while Jacob was speaking to other shepherds there about Laban. Jacob was immediately attracted to Rachel, and he could not have doubted at that point that God had led him to that very place, just like He promised that He would. Jacob was overjoyed that he'd now found his wife and that she was beautiful. The well had a big stone covering it, which took several strong men to move aside before the sheep and cattle could be given a drink. However, charged full of energy, Jacob singlehandedly pushed the stone away and watered Laban's sheep. He spoke to Rachel and made himself known to her as her aunt's son. Rachel raced back home to tell her father.

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

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In today's *Bible Adventure*, we move straight from conflict between two brothers to conflict between two sisters, as told in Genesis, Chapter 29. Jacob moved into Laban's home and he stayed there a month. Jacob worked hard for Laban during that time and Laban finally asked Jacob what wages he wanted in return for his work.

Jacob was obviously happy to stay with Laban and his family. The wages that Jacob asked for was Laban's younger daughter, Rachel, in marriage. Jacob said he would be willing to work for Laban 7 years for her. It was usual for the bridegroom to give the bride's family a marriage gift but Jacob had nothing to give. So he offered 7 years' worth of work in exchange and Laban accepted.

When Jacob challenged Laban about the trickery Laban had done, Laban spelt out a plan. After the wedding week for Leah and Jacob, Jacob could have Rachel as a wife without any wedding party at all. But Jacob then had to serve Laban for another 7 years in exchange for her. What could Jacob do? So he reluctantly agreed. Laban gave each daughter a maid to serve her and Jacob soon had a household of 4 women.

Does God pay back those who do wrong things to other people with the same type of wrong that they'd used? Sometimes we can think so. Jacob understood that he was being paid back for the trick that he played on his father to get his brother's blessing. As he deceived, so was he deceived in return! Jacob reaped what he sowed.

Solomon had enough wisdom to understand this principle that in the end, all evildoers will be punished. God's justice may work slowly but it never stops working. Because we think that God is patient, longsuffering, slow to anger, and forbearing, we forget that His tolerance is designed to lead us to repentance. Instead of taking advantage of His patience and coming humbly to Him for forgiveness, we often tend to remain in revolt against Him through sin. The supreme folly of a converted person or Christian is to delude themselves that somehow they can get away with sin. The Old Testament, far from being a record of a resentful and wrathful God, is actually a revelation of His extreme patience, mercy and grace to an ever rebelling chosen people of God.

Is there any way that we can protect ourselves from being tricked into taking or doing things that we don't want? Yes, there is! The solution starts with our relationship with God. There's no more important decision in life than to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. We're all born into sin, and this means that nothing but the perfect, sinless blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can save us from sin and its consequences of hell forever. Sadly, many people die lost in their sins because they were deceived into rejecting a trusting and obedient relationship with God.

We need to be on guard because the devil's favourite trick is to convince people that they are saved from hell, when they really aren't. People can say that they're a member of the Christian faith but it's reported that less than a quarter of those people are likely to have a 'born again' experience. 'Born again' means to start afresh in life as a new, forgiven and cleansed person who God has adopted into His eternal kingdom and family. The way to receive God's cleansing and adoption for heaven is in 1 Corinthians: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, then you will be saved."

The vast majority of examples of deception can be boiled down to one common problem: people come up with their own reality rather than using the one God has provided for us. Freewill allows us to make decisions, but it doesn't give us the ability to determine what is the truth! The Bible warns that within themselves, a person is incapable of telling what is right from wrong in God's eyes. In Romans, Chapter 3, it says: ""There is none righteous, no, not one."

Our sinful nature that we are born with is the key reason why we can't trust our own judgment. The devil's role is to be the great deceiver of people and nations, and he is an even bigger reason why we need to turn to the God's Word, the Bible, for all moral guidance and revealed truth. Satan's ability to whisper into the ears of mankind explains why 'truth' can come in so many varieties, all of which can't possibly be correct.

Christians shouldn't just be mental sponges that soak up and agree with every teaching that sounds appealing. We should be like the Bereans of the book of Acts. When Paul and Silas shared the gospel with them, the Bereans didn't merely take them at their word. Instead, they searched through the Old Testament Scriptures to make sure that what they were hearing from Paul and Silas lined up with God's Word.

Because we live in the last days before the return of the Lord Jesus for His own beloved followers, there's been a great falling away in the world from the truth of God. The numbers of deceivers and those deceived are now at an all-time high. This is not a good time for anyone to rely on the so-called wisdom that's offered by the world. According to Scripture, things are going to get worse: one day, people will also see demonically inspired 'signs and wonders' that are not of God yet will deceive many, including Christians. And yet the vast majority of the world is already deceived. To stay clear of deception, we need to place all our trust in the Bible. In Matthew, Chapter 24, it says: "For false christs and false prophets will rise, and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

The Bible contains many warnings against being deceived. In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 3, it says, "Let no man deceive himself." And in 1 John, Chapter 1, it says: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." We also deceive ourselves when we think that we are greater than we really are. The father of pride, Satan, encourages us in this self-deception because when pride appears, human nature takes over and we stop living in the power and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Ironically, when we praise ourselves, we ultimately receive the opposite of what was intended goal of personal glory; our self-oriented quest will ultimately result in our shame.

In Job, Chapter 31, Job says, "Others try to hide their sins, but I have never concealed mine." After Job's friends had accused Job of being a hypocrite, he asked them for evidence where he had hidden the truth of his sins from himself. It's a relevant question, because it's natural to be blind to our own flaws while clearly seeing those of others.

Faithfulness always indicates a person who is truthful; this person can be trusted. Our own evaluation of ourselves comes down to this question: "How can God trust us if we're not striving to be honest *now*?" The Apostle Paul set the standard in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4: "Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

As followers of Christ, we must make honest and diligent use of God's gracious gifts without craftiness. Is our way Christ's way, which therefore makes it acceptable to God? Can we say that we have nothing to do with hidden and shameful methods of deception and self-promotion, and don't water down truth in any form at all? We are to leave as little room as possible for people to misinterpret our motives, misunderstand our actions or twist our words out of their real meaning.

Does it matter what other people think of us? It does matter very much to God. If it didn't, God wouldn't show us such concern in His Word about being a good witness for Him. Nor would He warn us about protecting our reputation, including His, because much of our effectiveness in sharing Jesus' love and mercy to others depends on us being trustworthy. In Exodus, Chapter 20, the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment says: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour." Keeping these words begins with not letting our deceitful heart trick us into doing anything less than what is honest and true in God's sight. Doing what is right is something that must be sought after and done to remain pure and glorify God.

There's an old saying which says: "It's never right to do wrong, and it's never wrong to do right."

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

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