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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2203 ~ Joseph Unjustly Accused.

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

Joseph, a free man who was sold into slavery by his hateful step-brothers, was now a slave in the household of Potiphar in Egypt, which was a long way from home in Canaan. But the Lord was with Joseph and Joseph prospered in all the circumstances and difficult work that he did for Potiphar. Nothing is too hard for the Lord, but without the Lord, everything can become too hard. Joseph's successes weren't primarily due to his abilities or his own goodness but because the Bible says that the presence of the Lord was with him. The presence of the Lord changes everything in a person's life, including all the difficulties to be faced.

In God's covenant promises to Abraham, blessings would come through Abraham's descendants to all people on earth, even pagan people like Potiphar. Potiphar could tell that the Lord was with Joseph and after successfully appointing Joseph as his personal attendant Potiphar then put him in charge of his whole household. From then on Potiphar prospered through Joseph and God's blessing was on both of them.

Joseph's life demonstrates many principles of faithful Christian service and is a good example for us all. Joseph started out in life a spoiled child but a free person. If God was going to establish Joseph as a great leader, He first needed to humble him. Being sold into slavery by one's own brothers was a dramatic and severe form of humbling. But Joseph as a slave was faithful to do small things well before he was promoted to greater and more important responsibilities. Some people would like to be rulers and leaders without first being servants. That's not God's usual way of developing great leaders.

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

In his position as head of Potiphar's household, Joseph met his next test – one of obedience against temptation by Potiphar's wife. This test was necessary to prepare Joseph for the future role God had planned for him. In Genesis, Chapter 39, it's recorded how Potiphar's wife tried day after day to get Joseph, a very good-looking young man, to commit sexual sin with her. But Joseph refused, explaining to her that he was in charge of everything her husband owned but not her.

Even when there were no servants in the house and no one would have known, except Joseph and Potiphar's wife, Joseph still refused her advances. Ultimately, all sin is sin against God. Even when no person is 'hurt' by our sin and no one sees our sin, God sees and God is hurt. He sees and knows even our secret sinful thoughts and desires. The test of true faithfulness and obedience comes when we resist the secret sins that no one else but God will ever know about.

Joseph passed the sexual infidelity test but he suffered as a result of being framed by Potiphar's wife and being put into prison. If Joseph hadn't been obedient to God, God would no longer have prospered Joseph as He had in the past. Our doing what is right and just is necessary for the promises of God to be fully realised in our lives. Can we claim 'credit' for obeying God? No. Can we 'earn' God's acceptance and love? No and neither is it us who make God's promises come true. We have a part to play. However, it's only a small part compared to God's part. And even our small part of trusting, obeying and waiting, is made possible by God's grace.

Ultimately, everything is of God, from the beginning of our lives until the end; and to ensure His continued blessing along the way, all we need to do is trust and obey what He teaches us to do through His Holy Spirit and His Scriptures in the Bible.

Jacob's son Joseph is considered to be a type of Christ in the Bible, as there are over 20 parallel happenings to Jesus Christ. Although Joseph was born a sinner just like the rest of us, there's no mention of any stated wrongdoing by him in the Scriptures. Perhaps the humility that we can see in Joseph's life, and continually in Christ's life while He was on earth is one of stand-out character traits that we all should want to identify with.

Humility is very necessary for Christians or we can become stumbling blocks to the people around us. If we have a puffed-up attitude of superiority, we'll turn people away from listening to what we have to say about the Lord Jesus.

It's by God's grace that we're saved; our salvation comes from our faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross to do away with all the sin and its power in our lives. In Ephesians, Chapter 2, it says: "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest anyone should boast." That verse alone should keep us humble.

The God of all creation became a man to purchase our salvation. He also died for those lost people around us, but if we act superior to them they won't see His grace. Be a humble example of God's love. Don't boast, but don't compromise. The men who wrote the Holy Spirit inspired letters in our New Testament stood firm on God's precepts, but they wrote with God's love.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah wrote 4 Servant songs or poems in chapters 42 through 53 of the book of Isaiah. The Servant is divinely chosen, called, anointed, equipped and commissioned. The gentle Servant willingly assumed His responsibilities. He was characterised as unobtrusive in manner, yet strong and resolute. He would keep at His appointed task until it was finished.

In the 3rd Servant poem in Isaiah, we encounter the suffering of the Servant for the first time in these poems. In spite of terrible suffering, Jesus will remain unfaltering in His faith in God, even though He will be rejected by His people.

These Servant poems reach their climax in the 4th poem: God's Servant has to be humiliated before He is exalted. God provides this perfect substitute as an atonement for sin. The Servant makes amends for sin and wrongdoing. This results in full redemption for guilty sinners willing to reject their old sinful ways and turn to God's holy ways through faith in Him. The history of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shows that He was the appointed Suffering Servant of God described in the book of Isaiah.

Do you see now why you need a Saviour from sin? There are only two places to go in the life beyond this one on earth. Heaven or hell. There is no other place to go – no neutral in-between area for those who never decided to accept God's provision to clear away their sin record. God is holy and cannot tolerate sin in His presence. Those who accept His terms for the forgiveness of their sins will be taken into heaven in the next life.

The only other place left to go is hell. Each individual in this world has to choose whether to follow and obey Jesus and receive eternal life with God in heaven or follow their own ways that God counts as evil and foolish. Those who do nothing about asking Jesus to deal with their sin, fail to avert punishment for their many sins and default themselves into a place of everlasting torment and separation from God's goodness, which we know as hell.

Do you enjoy knowing God's peace and assurance that all your sins have been erased by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ God's Son? If not, repent of your sin and ask Jesus Christ to become your personal Saviour today. Humble yourself and turn to the Lord for wisdom and His direction in your life. In 1st Peter, Chapter 5, it says: "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for he cares for you."

When Potiphar's wife became frustrated and angry about not getting her way with Joseph, she decided to get even. One day when they were alone, she caught hold of Joseph's cloak and he fled from her presence without it. He may have lost his cloak but he kept his upright character. But this time Potiphar's wife had 'proof' that Joseph had been trying to molest her. She called for her husband and the other servants, accusing Joseph of the very thing she herself had been wanting to do all the way along.

Because Joseph did so much in her husband's business, maybe Potiphar's wife wasn't sure of the punishment Joseph would get. But typically the punishment for a slave abusing his owner's wife was death. And certainly as a slave, Joseph was not asked for his side of the story. Even if he could speak in his own defence, Joseph would have remained unwilling to speak against Potiphar's wife out of respect for Potiphar.

Potiphar responded to his wife's made-up story and had Joseph arrested and sent to prison. But he spared his life. Joseph is the first major Biblical person to become the victim of slander and false witness. Slander is often based on truth: "I have Joseph's cloak." But the purpose of slander is to defame that person behind their back. This story should serve as a warning to us: when we think that we've seen the 'proof' of someone's bad behaviour, we need to remember Joseph and his cloak, as all may not be how it seems. And God knows who's guilty and who's innocent.

Joseph's going to prison was a further humbling for him. Most people, when they suffer, they suffer because of their own sin or stupidity. Joseph suffered because of righteousness and keeping faithful to his owner and the Lord. The Bible warns that the cost of following Jesus will mean that we too, will suffer for His sake.

When we do suffer, let us suffer for God's righteousness and truth, and find opportunities to testify this truth to others who need to hear about Jesus too. No matter what our circumstances, let's do what Christ did, and that was to trust in the Lord always!

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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