



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2252 ~ Jesus' Boyhood in Nazareth

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

In many countries, people who change their religion to Christianity are punished to try to make them take back their old beliefs. How do such people hold onto their trust in Jesus in these times of hardship and strife? They do so by remembering verses of Scripture they've learnt, praying and being joyful in their suffering. In doing this, they're comforted.

Before hard times come, believers in the Lord Jesus are encouraged to learn the Scriptures as well as the words of worship songs thoroughly.

Over 60 years ago, a missionary was imprisoned by the Japanese during their wartime occupation of parts of China. At the Japanese prisoner-of-war camp, the penalty for owning even a portion of the Scriptures was death. However, a small Gospel of John was smuggled to her in a winter coat.

At night when she went to bed, the missionary pulled the covers over her head and with a little light in hand, read a verse and went to sleep learning that verse by heart. In this way, over a period of time, she learnt the entire Gospel of John.

When she went to wash her hands, the missionary would take one page at a time, dissolve it with the soap and water and then flush it down the drain. That was how she safely rid herself of the precious Gospel before it was detected.

The missionary was interviewed by a reporter just before the prisoners were released at the end of the war. When the camp gates were opened, the prisoners came shuffling out like robots. Then the missionary marched out. One of the watching reporters spoke, “I wonder if they managed to brainwash her.” The reporter who had just interviewed her answered, “God washed her brain.”

If we want to be strong in our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus, we must fill our minds with Scripture and thankfulness. The children in Jewish families were taught the books of Moses from an early age. But before Jesus’ mother Mary could teach Him the words of God, the family needed to return to Israel from their enforced exile in Egypt. In Hosea, Chapter 11, Hosea the prophet recorded God’s words, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

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

When King Herod died in 4 BC, he left a portion of his kingdom to each of his three sons. None of them were very happy about this so together, they took a ship to Rome to appeal to Caesar that he should overturn the will and give the whole kingdom to one of them.

While the sons were on their way, a delegation of people from Judah went also to tell the Caesar that they were tired of being ruled by bloodthirsty Herods. Caesar decided not to break up the will and so each king went back to the place he had been assigned by his father’s will.

When Mary and Joseph returned from Egypt, they may have planned to settle in Bethlehem, David’s city. But they soon discovered that the new ruling king there had killed all the people of the delegation who had travelled to Rome. Joseph was warned in a dream not to settle there. So they returned to Nazareth where they had originally come from.

In the last verse of Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 2, it says that Jesus would be called a Nazarene. The town of Nazareth was a poor area and had a poor reputation among people in other cities of Israel. In John's Gospel, Chapter 1, a man who later became a disciple of Jesus asked: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Certainly that wasn't the place that the Temple rulers would look for a bright new scholar or a Messiah.

During Jesus' childhood, He must have been a very diligent learner of the Scriptures. When Jesus went for the first time to Jerusalem, He asked the teachers of the law many questions. They were amazed at His learning and understanding.

We need to ask ourselves: What are we putting into our minds? In Philippians, Chapter 4, we're taught to put good things into our minds: "Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, blameless and praiseworthy – think on these things." If we focus our thoughts on good things, then bad, ugly, evil and wrong things won't be part of our lives.

Did you know that many people actually make themselves physically sick? They do it through bad and negative thoughts that they dwell on continually in their minds. In modern medical research into brain science, it's been proven that thoughts can be measured and they affect every area of our life. But best of all, the brain really can change how it works through how a person controls it.

The opposite of healthy thoughts are toxic thoughts. Toxic thoughts trigger negative and anxious emotions and thus in turn, cause the body to produce substances that cause the body stress. As we think, our thoughts are activated and these flow through to our attitudes. Attitudes are all our thoughts put together and reflect a person's state of mind. Positive attitudes cause a person's body to secrete the correct amount of chemicals for a healthy body but negative attitudes cause imbalances.

We have two choices: We can let our thoughts become toxic and poisonous, or we can shun or remove our negative thoughts. Rejecting negative thinking will improve our emotional wholeness and even recover our physical health.

A doctor couldn't understand why a baby was always sick. One day he entered the child's home while the parents were quarrelling and saw the mother nursing the child. The doctor threw up his hands and said: "Now I know what's the problem with your baby! You are poisoning it by hostility." The poison was in the mother's milk, put there by anger.

We can use a variety of words to describe our negative feelings. Irritation is a feeling we get when something upsets us but it soon passes. Indignation is similar but is deeper and stronger and takes longer to pass away. Resentment comes when the mind continues to focus on these things but will not allow it to pass. Those feelings can keep simmering day after day but not be outwardly expressed.

Hatred and anger are different. They soon reveal themselves. These emotions must be recognised, understood and kept under control. If you don't control them, they will control you. There are two types of anger. In Ephesians, Chapter 4, it says: "Be angry, and sin not."

How can we be angry and not sin? Anger is morally justified when it is grief at what is happening to others. Anger is sin when it is resentment at what is happening to oneself. If we are honest, most anger is brought on by self-interest and self-concern. Jesus was angry but didn't sin. In Him, the fire of anger was under control.

We need to pray to God and ask that all things harmful to our body, soul and mind be taken out of us. In Proverbs, Chapter 23, it says what a person thinks is what he really is. This is why it is so important to have a good knowledge of the Bible committed to our memory. God's Holy Spirit can bring to mind any of the familiar verses of Scripture to warn and teach us.

What is the best way of putting verses of Scripture into our minds? Some people learn quicker than others. Some seem to believe that they can't do it. One such pastor recalled how he entered Christian service with an undisciplined mind. To overcome his lack of Bible knowledge, he wrote references in the front of his Bible for use in counselling and evangelism. He soon found it was awkward to stop his conversations long enough to track down the right verse. So he determined to succeed at Scripture memory.

He struggled for the first half an hour to remember two verses but finally, remembered them. The next morning he reviewed and reinforced those verses in his memory and added a new one. By making it a priority in his life, the pastor discovered after a while that he had learnt one hundred verses.

By the end of his life, the pastor had learnt over 20,000 verses and could locate each by chapter and verse without his Bible. No wonder his Christian life was full of joy, his mind full of wisdom and his evangelistic efforts full of success!

How about you? Have you started out with determination yet to remember verses of Scripture? Once in your memory, the verses will give you victory over sin, help you overcome worry, speed up the transforming process in your life and outfit you for unlimited service for God. If you lack confidence in sharing your faith, start learning the most suitable verses first. Writing them down is helpful to some people. Then God will powerfully use us in His service to help others see their need of a Saviour from sin.

In Isaiah, Chapter 12, verse 2, it says: "God is my Saviour, I will trust Him and not be afraid."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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