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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1473 ~ Ruth the Gleaner.

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

In a crowded train, tired passengers tried to sleep but a fretful baby cried continuously. One angry man called out, “Why won’t that baby’s mother keep it quiet, so we can get some sleep?”

The child’s father sobbed, “She can’t. She died two days ago and I can’t comfort the child.” The angry man had not known this. He was so sorry that he lovingly took the baby and rocked her to sleep.

Angry, critical or thoughtless words can cause so much hurt. Once the words are out, we cannot take them back. We can apologize but the hurt cuts deep. On the other hand, kind and gentle words bring others encouragement and strength. In our drama, we hear about Ruth whose gentle words brought her mother-in-law Naomi real comfort and strength to go on.

Naomi’s husband and two sons had died while they were living in the land of Moab to avoid a long drought in their own country of Judah. Naomi had no one left to care for her, so she decided to return to her home at Bethlehem. Her two daughters-in-law began the journey with her. But Naomi encouraged them to return to their own people in Moab. Orpah returned but Ruth would not go back. She declared that Naomi’s God would now be her God.

Ruth was making a life commitment to her mother-in-law whom she had come to love. Her kind words blessed Naomi as they travelled together. Ruth was prepared to learn to live in a foreign country. There would be new foods and customs. Naomi loved her and would help her to settle in.

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

Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem. Naomi's name means "pleasant" but she wanted it changed to Mara, meaning "bitter." She sinned by blaming God for the loss of her husband and sons. It was the family's decision to go to Moab, not God's.

Bitterness has two close allies: anger and resentment. Anger if not repented of, leads to resentment. If this is not banished, it turns into long term bitterness. Some sufferers of bitterness seem very reluctant to admit their own part in their troubles. They blame others or God. And year in and year out, they carry a heavy burden they refuse to put down.

The antidote of bitterness is the confession of the wrong actions and words said, to our Heavenly Father. There is no need to live with anger, resentment or bitterness. Forgiveness is the key.

We are to forgive others the wrongs they have done to us BEFORE we ask God to forgive us of our own sins. In the Bible book Ephesians, Chapter 4, it says, "Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ."

Once the burden of bitterness is put at the Lord Jesus' feet, it must not be taken up again the next hour or day. It is gone and must be forgotten. When the mind dwells on past wrongs, the person cannot move onto new things. In the Bible book Philippians, Chapter 4, it says, "Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable."

When Naomi and Ruth reached Bethlehem they were very poor. For food, Ruth went into the fields to pick up stray grains missed by the reapers in the barley harvest. The Lord God gave instructions to Moses to teach the people to leave the gleanings in their fields for the poor people and for foreigners.

Just as Ruth's kind words had encouraged Naomi to go on, so the Almighty God promises His people to continually bring them back to their faith in Him. At the beginning of their history, God had made a promise to Abraham to bless all his descendants.

In the Bible book Genesis, Chapter 12, it says, "I will give you many descendants and they will become a great nation...all the families of the earth will be blessed through you."

This story of Ruth and Naomi was another link in the chain of the fulfilment of that promise to Israel.

Perhaps you feel bitter against God for the pain you have suffered in your life. We need to give the Almighty God the control of our lives and trust His ways. Then He can turn even the worst and most difficult times around to teach us something new about His love and provision for us.

Self-pity is something we must learn to turn away from. Was Naomi self-pitying? She did not sound grateful for a safe trip back home. Two women travelling along the road by themselves could have been an easy target for trouble from robbers. Having a grateful heart of praise towards God stops us from harbouring self-pity in our minds. A noted writer once said: "Never allow your own sorrow to absorb you, but seek out another to console and you will find consolation."

Generations before Ruth's time, the prime minister of Egypt, Joseph, knew this. Although sold into slavery by his own brothers, he was able to say to them, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for my good, so many people would be saved." The Almighty God had given Joseph wisdom to see God's plan when he looked back.

Joseph was not bitter about all the difficulties he had come through. He had trusted the wisdom of God to work out the circumstances of his life.

We cannot understand many difficult things that happen to us in life, even when we look back. Did those troubles bring us closer to God in our prayers? When we place our lives under God's control, He will keep our trust in Him strong.

In the Bible book Proverbs, Chapter 3, it says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Never let yourself think you are wiser than you are. Obey the Lord and refuse to do wrong."

So come to God today, through faith in Jesus Christ. Trust His wisdom and not your own for your daily living. Do not blame God or harbour anger towards Him for your problems and troubles. Ask Him instead to bring good out of all things for His glory.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Ian Ferris singing "Come let us reason together."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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