



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1482 ~ Saul is Impatient.

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

Two years after Saul's victory over the Ammonites and there had been peace, the king decided to downsize his army. He stationed a small number of soldiers under his son Jonathan's command further down in the land from where he held command of a larger group. The rest of the soldiers were sent to their homes.

Jonathan and his armour bearer attacked a Philistine fortress and captured it. This brought Saul into conflict with the full Philistine army. Saul immediately called for all his reserve soldiers to come to him.

When the Israelite soldiers heard how huge the Philistine army coming to do battle was, great fear overcame them. They fled, forgetting all those times before when their Creator God had saved them from much bigger armies than this one.

A construction worker was busy on a job that was seventy feet above the ground. He was part of a team building a new lighthouse on a tiny sandy island in the tropical waters off the Australian coast. A strong wind came up. The lighthouse tower swayed. At that point, the construction worker looked down. He froze with fear. It took forty minutes for the young man's mind to persuade his feet to creep along the planks and get back down to the ground. Such is the power of fear and our natural survival instincts. Many of Saul's soldiers hid to save their lives.

Saul impatiently waited for Samuel to come to offer sacrifices to God. A spirit of fear easily spreads. Just waiting around caused more soldiers to scatter into the surrounding countryside.

The children of Israel had wandered around in the wilderness for forty years and life would have been very routine. Setting up and packing down the campsites was so regular that the people became quite proficient at it. However, when they reached the Promised Land and settled at last, they then had to learn how to be soldiers and farmers.

The Bible stories of the Israelite people at present are going from battle to endless battle. There is often a deep longing within people to be at peace but we should not strive for peace at any price. Troubles will always come to everyone at some time or other. Yet these times of trouble can be times that strengthen our trust in God and develop our perseverance and character. In the Bible book of Romans, Chapter 12, it says: “Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”

King Saul thought he could do whatever he liked because he was king. It seems he never acknowledged God’s rule over him while he was king. Saul ignored God’s command that only priests from the tribe of Levi were to offer the burnt sacrifices to God. Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin yet he decided he could offer God a burnt sacrifice too.

People often take the wrong attitude of “I’m free to do whatever I want.” But this always brings disaster. It is far better to wait patiently on the Lord and seek His direction than to bend God’s commands to suit us. When we think we know it all, we get ourselves into a lot of trouble. In the Bible book Psalms, Chapter 37, it says: “trust in the Lord,” and “wait patiently for Him.”

Are you good at making excuses? Although excuses never help a situation to get better, we still offer them as an explanation for why we did the wrong thing in the first place. King Saul excused his wrong behaviour to Samuel instead of confessing he had sinned by offering the burnt sacrifice. By this foolish action, Saul's friendship with Samuel became torn apart.

Up until this point, Samuel had been a great help to Saul. Yet Saul did not seem to appreciate Samuel's role and he became impatient when Samuel didn't come quickly to offer the burnt sacrifice on his behalf. Surely Saul's impatience here shows considerable weakness in character.

As a result of Saul's sin, Samuel told Saul that his kingdom couldn't now be passed onto his son, Jonathan. How sad this must have been for Jonathan, as Jonathon had already shown leadership qualities in the areas Israel needed.

A young girl wanted to bake a cake so her mother helped her measure out the ingredients. The batter was stirred and put into a baking dish. And into the oven the cake mixture went. The girl was very eager to eat it. So she opened the oven door often to check on its progress. The continual loss of heat from the oven, however, stopped the cake from rising as it should have. By being impatient, the girl ruined her cooking results.

Don't we all know someone who has tried to take some sort of short cut? Only to have delays and problems that show the short cut was not really a short cut at all! Often in life we are in a hurry and want quick results but God is not in a hurry. His timing is perfect. God has not promised us an easy way ahead but rather, His peace and leading as we travel the right way with Him.

King Saul did not trust God for the perfect timing to go into battle. He was far more interested in getting the sacrifice done and over with, rather than waiting patiently for Samuel to come. The asking for God's blessing in the worship time of the sacrifice was actually far more important than racing off to battle. Saul did not remember that Gideon battled with only half the soldiers Saul had in his army and God had given Gideon a total victory at that time. The numbers of soldiers were not important to God as He is able to do far above all that we ask or think.

In the Bible book Proverbs, Chapter 3, it teaches: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right way."

Do you sense God is distant from you? Your prayers may seem to be going unanswered? Like King Saul, there may be some unconfessed sin in your life blocking the way.

Many years ago a man felt like this. He asked God to reveal anything that displeased God in his life. The matter of an unpaid four-cent postage stamp came to his mind. He went to the post office and gave over the money. From then on, his conscience was clear. A four-cent postage stamp does not seem to be much. Yet God regards our wrongdoing, whether deliberate or by neglect, as a barrier to our relationship with Him. Do not rest until you break down any barriers between you and the Lord Jesus today.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Gary Sadler singing "'Show me your ways."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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