



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1485 ~ Saul and the Amalekites.

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

A mother looked out to see her young son sitting on the back fence at the end of their garden. She called him to come to her. He hesitated for a moment and then his face lit up with mischief. He swung his legs over the fence and slipped down the other side. He started to run away through the long grass. By the time the boy's mother had run through the house, down the front garden and along the side fence, there was no sight of her child. She searched frantically, calling his name. But it was already too late. He had run onto a roadway in front of a car. The lessons we all have to learn about obedience can be painful at times, but not nearly as painful as the consequences of our disobedience.

King Saul was given a test of obedience. Samuel's words from God told him to take his army and destroy the possessions and people known as the Amalekites. These people had descended from Esau's grandson. They had waged war against the Israelites ever since Moses led them around in the wilderness. The Amalekites' sentence of judgment had been given long before Saul had been made king.

Some descendents of Moses' father-in-law, known as Kenites, lived in the battle zone. They had been helpful to the Children of Israel and were warned before the impending battle to move. It is always in our best interests to live apart from God's enemies or we might share in the punishment for their sins. God is sovereign and has the right to punish nations when He decides.

An auctioneer sold off millions of dollars worth of art works and fine house furnishings for the wealthy. Seeing people fight over these material things, however, stopped her from extending her own collection of valuable pieces. She would not allow possessions to become a priority in her life. She said that life is not about possessions. Most people who come into a lot of money would agree that they were happier before they got the money, rather than afterwards. The advice in the Bible book Hebrews, Chapter 13, is: “Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have.”

When the battle with the Amalekites was over, Saul’s soldiers, who were farmers most of the time, started to want (or covet) the animals left over as spoils of war. Saul had not ordered his men to slaughter all the animals and people as he should have done if to obey fully the words of God. The best of the animals plus King Agag were brought back to Israel.

Samuel challenged King Saul and repeated the instructions God had given him. At first Saul boasted to Samuel of his part ‘obedience’. Next, Saul denied that he had done anything wrong. Then he blamed the soldiers, saying he feared them. Saul continually justified himself to escape from being judged by the Lord, or so he thought. How could Saul rule the nation well when he refused to have God rule over himself?

The two words of 'envy' and 'covet' are fairly similar. When we envy other people's things, we think about how well they are doing and wish we were doing just as well.

When we covet someone else's things, we long to possess what they have. In both cases, we hold grudging thoughts about how we don't have as much as we should have. With envy and coveting also comes greed. We want things that we do not need, and could not possibly hope to use. The cure for coveting and envy is to hold an attitude of gratitude and giving praise to God for what He has provided. Always count your blessings, not your lack of possessions.

Saul made a half-hearted attempt at repenting over his sin of disobedience. He wanted Samuel to forgive him and go with him to worship the Lord. God wanted Saul to set things right but it was left to Samuel to dispatch King Agag. Saul, however, was more interested in his own authority and good standing among the people. Samuel's presence with him gave Saul more importance.

Samuel grieved over Saul and prayed for him all that night. But it was no use. God had rejected Saul and that was the end of the matter. Samuel did not meet again with Saul for the rest of his lifetime.

When God says He repented of making Saul king over Israel, this repentance is a change of method, not a change of mind, as it is in people. When Saul turned away from following God, God's Spirit left him and he became an enemy of God.

Many people think they obey the commands of God. Yet their lives are full of self-indulgence, love of the world, angry and unkind words and neglect in helping others. God is looking for humble and faithful obedience to His will among His people. It was much easier for Saul to bring a sacrifice to God than to bring glory to God by being submissive and obedient.

Is there part of your heart or life you keep back from giving to God? Are there some things in life you think you have a right to have? Every time you are tempted to be less than fully committed to God, reject the temptation in your mind.

In the Bible book 1 John, Chapter 5, it teaches us to keep ourselves from idols. Possessions can become idols or false gods. They must not become a substitute for God's rightful first place in our lives. Confess anything your conscience is unsure of to God. Ask for forgiveness and turn away from doing such wrong things in the future. In the Bible book Psalms, Chapter 103, it says: "The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is His love for those who honour Him."

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Don Harris singing "As a Father has Compassion."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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