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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1543 ~ Elisha and the Oil Pots.

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

Around 10 years ago, a young mother in India discovered she had a disease many people die from. She got help quickly from the nearest hospital so she could recover and before her body was permanently damaged. When she told her husband of her health problem, he ordered her out of their home and told her to take their two small boys with her. The mother was stunned at his reaction and returned to her own mother's house.

On her next visit to the hospital, the mother told the staff what had happened. They arranged for her to get some training. When she'd finished two sewing courses, Christians at the hospital lent her two sewing machines. In time, she paid for both machines from the money she earned by making clothes. From this, the mother has also provided for herself and her two boys. This lady's story is one of many success stories where poverty stricken mothers have to find work to support themselves and their children.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, we have the story of a widowed mother and her two sons in the same desperate situation, only this time, it was around 900 BC and early in the ministry of the prophet Elisha.

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

The verses of Scripture in 2nd Kings, Chapter 4, don't tell us what the man borrowed a large sum of money for, but it was certainly a burden left for his widow.

While the widow was grieving over the loss of her husband, she received an unwelcome visit from a creditor demanding his money. He would have known that she didn't have the money to repay him straight away. He tried to frighten her when he said he would take her two sons as slaves to pay for the debt. This only served to cause her more distress.

It is necessary to grieve after the loss of a loved one. It is an important part of healing because it allows the release of the emotional pressure of sorrow. The grieving process is a way of honouring what was meaningful to a person. But there also comes a time for closure. When that time comes, those left behind must let go of their grief or risk being stuck with it and unable to function properly. Three years after a woman had lost her mother, she was still crying daily for her. This isn't normal and the woman needed help. For all those who trust in God, He will comfort in such times and help each one through their grief. God will then empower the person to move on and be able to comfort others.

The widow in today's *Bible Adventure* was wise. She went to Elisha the prophet for help and he gave her full instructions on what to do. She obeyed his words and she and her two boys, by their own industry and God's miracle, were able to pay off the debt. The money left over after clearing the debt was for this family to use in making an honest living. For all those who trust in God, He is able to supply each of our needs, though probably not in the amazing way He helped the widow. In response, we need to diligently use what the Lord provides and work hard to resolve our problems quickly.

Professing Christians are to trust God for their daily needs and not live carelessly or lavishly. The misuse of money or property by Christians brings shame and dishonour to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. People see hypocrisy in these Christians' lives, when they profess glory to God but then honour themselves.

The Bible book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 5, says: “Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied.” If church people covet what an unsaved person owns rather than being concerned about what they may need or their eternal destiny, the unsaved person senses this undue conflict. If the unsaved person believes their friendship is being cultivated for what Christians can get out of them, they’ll decline being with the group and disregard the Gospel too.

Sadly throughout history, many poor families have sold some of their children into slavery to provide for the rest of the family. Other parents will put their children into mental slavery by teaching them how to use drugs and addictive substances which ruin their health and spend all their money. And other parents again, bring their children into different types of spiritual bondage, where only the Lord Jesus can set them free.

The most famous slave of all in the Bible was Joseph, the deputy ruler of Egypt in the time of a severe famine. He was originally the favoured son in his father’s household but found himself sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. As a slave in Egypt, Joseph learnt how to manage a rich man’s business affairs well but was unfairly accused of misconduct. Joseph was left as good for nothing in the rough life of the king’s prison. But wherever he went, Joseph learnt to trust God and God gave him success in his work. Before long, Joseph was organising the prison! After he passed all of God’s character tests God raised him up into a position of honour beside the king. Later, when Joseph met his brothers again, he graciously forgave them for treating him so badly. He saw it all as part of God’s plan to help the people in that region survive during a 7-year drought.

About 30 years ago, three young Christian men went to a holiday motel for a weekend but left without paying the bill. If these men didn't have the money to pay, then they shouldn't have gone there. But they thought that if they prayed, God would miraculously provide for their expenses while they sat idly by. God didn't honour these men's prayer. Afterward they should have made every effort to earn the money and pay the bill before the law had time to bring them to court. Christians are to be known for their honesty and integrity but incidents like this one, when published in the newspaper, bring a loss of respect for Christianity.

To pay all our debts on time is vital for a Christian to keep a clear conscience so our prayers won't be hindered in any way. In the New Testament book of Romans, Chapter 13, it says: "Owe no one anything except to love one another."

When the Lord Jesus walked on earth, He did many miracles healing sick people, raising some from the dead, casting out demons and providing for physical needs. But more than this, He taught the people with authority about His Father in heaven and the kingdom God is establishing on earth. He predicted future events like His own death and the destruction of the beautiful temple in Jerusalem. Such events have already come to pass while some of His prophecies are still yet to be fulfilled.

Elisha ministered to families and accepted the hospitality of friends. He was like Jesus Christ in this respect, whereas Elijah was more like John the Baptist, who was alone, rugged, a preacher to the nation. Although God equips different people to work in different ways, He is Lord of all. Have you asked Him to be Lord of your life yet?

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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