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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1553 ~ Funds for the Temple.

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

Ambition is the desire to succeed in life. Did you know there are two sides to ambition? A person's actions are either based on godly ambition or selfish ambition.

Godly ambition is displayed when people strongly desire to serve the Lord and do His will in every area of their lives. They direct their energies into improving the quality of their character, but avoid boasting about their personal achievements. Instead, they give God all the glory for what He has accomplished through them and rely on Christ's strength and direction for whatever they do.

Selfish ambition becomes destructive and sinful when its goal is to bring glory to the person and not to God. Many people are motivated by their dreams and goals that are based on selfish ambition. They work hard in life to succeed for themselves or their children but without dependence or thankfulness to God. Selfish ambition thus becomes very harmful when Satan uses it to lure a person away from God.

You can test your ambition by asking God to reveal to you the purity of your hidden motivations. Our hearts are described in the Bible as deceptive and every person justifies the decisions that they make. God's Spirit will show you through Scripture if what you want to do will lead you closer to God or further away from Him. If you're not sure or confused, your ambition is likely to be one that will lead you away.

In today's Bible Adventure which took place about 835 BC, we see destructive ambition in the only Queen of Judah: Athaliah. She was both daughter and daughter-in-law of two kings, the wife of a king and mother of a king. But Athaliah's selfish ambition was to get the throne of Judah all for herself, even though she wasn't a descendent of King David. To accomplish this, Athaliah ordered the deaths of all her own grandsons.

Athaliah's daughter was married to the high priest Jehoida and she saved her youngest brother Joash from death by hiding him and his nurse in the Temple quarters of the high priest. There he remained for six years until the high priest had gathered enough people loyal to God around him so that young Joash could be crowned the next king of Judah. That took place around 835BC. Queen Athaliah, a Baal-worshipper and someone who caused the people of Judah to sin, was quickly slain as a traitor as soon as Joash became king.

Joash became the first of two boy-kings for Judah. Although only seven years of age, Joash was guided by Jehoida to do good things for the people of Judah. Jehoida made covenants between the people, the new king and himself so they would all be committed as God's people. As a result, the people went and destroyed the places of Baal worship that Athaliah had set up.

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

In Exodus, Chapter 30, and at God's command, Moses had started the collection of a set amount of tax on the Israelite people to make amends for their sin. This tax was paid to God and used for maintaining the Tent of Meeting that the people used for worship at that time.

Later when King Joash decided to repair the Temple, he had the high priest order the people to pay this same tax again, and the people did so willingly. The people in fact gave gifts that were far more than that was needed to pay for the repairs. From this surplus, Joash ordered that new utensils be made for the Temple to replace the ones which Queen Athaliah's sons had stolen them for their Baal worship. The repair of the Temple is described in 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 24.

Should people bring gifts to God? In the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, Chapter 10, it says: "God made the earth by His power; He established the world by His wisdom and, by His understanding and skill, stretched out the heavens." The whole universe is His. Everything we think we own is really a gift from God. We should develop an attitude of thankfulness to Him for all that we have. Giving gifts to God shows our gratefulness and love for Him, and that He has first place in our lives.

God doesn't have any personal need for our money. But it's for our own spiritual benefit that we bring gifts to Him. Each person has control over their possessions and can refuse to give God anything at all. But refusal to thank God by keeping everything does a person no good. A lifetime of collected stuff only rusts and decays and cannot be taken into the grave. In the end, holding tightly to one's possessions will bring ruin to that person.

A woman had a library of books, most of which she freely lent to people who wanted to read them. But she didn't lend her favourites. She kept them safe in a wooden box under her bed. One night she heard a scratching sound from under the bed. She got up, pulled the box out and opened it. White ants were in there. All her precious books had been turned into useless paper fragments by those hungry ants. So true at some point is the expression: "What we hoard, we lose."

Not only do we give gifts to God but there are many poor people around us who need our gifts too.

In Proverbs, Chapter 19, it says: “When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.” In 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 9, it says: “When we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.” God will ultimately be praised and blessed because we give our things to others.

When we give, our thoughts and actions should shift away from ourselves and our own self-centredness and instead focus on others in love and care. When we donate to charities, we are to give cheerfully. However, we should not give to get more, even though often our resources grow as God blesses our actions. We can trust God to provide for us. The qualities of character that make us generous also make us more responsible and trustworthy. God, in His grace, may entrust more to us in time so that we can give more away. Our generosity then becomes a larger channel of God’s blessings to the world.

We need to be aware, though, that where there is no love, giving things away only leads to bitterness and the seeking of earthly rewards in return.

Thus it is important to give to God in the right way. The Lord Jesus said to give in secrecy. A famous preacher and his wife kept chickens and sold the eggs. Even close relatives who wanted eggs had to pay for them. This led some people who knew the preacher and his wife to consider them greedy and grasping. The preacher and his wife accepted the criticisms without defending themselves. After the wife had died, it was discovered that the money that had been made from the sale of the eggs had been supporting two elderly widows. The preacher and his wife had been unwilling to let the left hand know what the right hand was doing and in doing so, endured the attacks on their character in silence and for God’s glory.

One large business run by Christians took a tenth of their profit each year and divided it between their employees for giving away to charities. Each employee decided where their allocation of money was to be sent. What joy these employees found in doing this and what an example of caring for others this became!

God gave us His only Son, Jesus Christ. It's no wonder then that we find great joy in giving back to God our time, energy, abilities and money. We owe God everything we have. The Lord Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 16, said to His disciples: "If you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it." Finding true life in Christ is blessing beyond measure!

When we want to express our love for God, we delight in giving Him what is most important to us. The Apostle Paul in Romans, Chapter 12, said: "So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us, I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him." This is the highest goal of being a Christian.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Chris Rodriquez singing "The Lord is good."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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