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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1561 ~ Unfortunate Show of Wealth.**

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

A teenager was sent by his mother one summer's day to pick a container full of fruit from the garden. The boy dragged his feet in rebellion and the fruit picking seemed to go very slowly. Then an idea came to him. If he picked two containers of fruit for his mother, he would surprise her! So he then happily picked two containers of fruit, to the utter amazement of his family, and they never forgot this. When the boy was an old man, he said that, throughout his life, he'd always remembered the lesson from it: we can change any situation by changing our attitude towards it.

Our attitudes are very important. Our attitude of thankfulness to God is so needed for the whole of life. King Hezekiah of Judah had just been healed by God from his deathly sickness. God promised him 15 more years of life and gave him a sign that this would come true. The sign was for the sun to go backwards in the sky – an amazing sight seen in every country within the region.

At that time in history, Assyria was the dominant world power, but the Babylonians were gradually conquering more and more areas of Assyria. Today's Bible Adventures' drama starts in the court of the king of Babylon, as recorded in 2nd Kings, Chapter 20.

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

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King Hezekiah was given three tests. When he had to defend Jerusalem from the Assyrians, he trusted in God. When he became very sick, he prayed to God. But when given a third test as found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah, Chapter 39, King Hezekiah failed miserably. He exalted himself after being flattered by visiting Babylonian princes. They'd heard of his sickness and had brought him a present. Hezekiah now had a false confidence in himself and his position after God had given great victory over the Assyrians.

One of life's lessons is that if Satan cannot succeed as a lion, then he'll come as a snake; we need to keep up our guard against his attacks at all times.

Hezekiah had an opportunity to tell the learned men how God had healed him. He could have given God the glory that was due to God alone for this, but he didn't. Just where was his attitude of thankfulness for his extended life? In Isaiah, Chapter 48, God Himself says: "I will not let my name be dishonoured or let anyone else share the glory that should be Mine and Mine alone."

Hezekiah never realised that Babylon would be the next world power or that he was really showing his wealth to the nation's future enemy. In Proverbs, Chapter 27, it says: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

The king of Babylon wanted to enlist the help of Judah in opposing Assyria, just as they had gained help from the Medes. We need to remember that our enemy Satan is a liar and uses every excuse to get entry into our lives.

King Hezekiah acted foolishly when he allowed his possessions to come between himself and God, and now, his wealth had become his idol. In our society these days, a person's worth is usually judged by their possessions. Since we who trust in Jesus belong to God, all we own does too. We must keep our possessions dedicated to God's purposes and for His kingdom.

After the ambassadors from Babylon had gone back home, the prophet Isaiah visited Hezekiah and told him that Babylon was Judah's real enemy. One day, Babylon would conquer Judah.

Instead of repenting and turning back to God, Hezekiah was relieved that the punishment for his sin would not come in his own lifetime. What sort of legacy was this for him to leave for Judah and his son Manasseh? He sold out his people's future by his actions. Decisions we make today can affect other people in coming years. Pray for wisdom to do the right things always.

A pastor and his family moved to a new church in a small town to preach God's Word. During the first week, the pastor needed to go into town so he caught the bus. When he took his seat, he noticed that the bus driver had given him a small amount of change more than he should have been given. The pastor cast around in his mind what he should do about it. It wasn't much he reasoned. But nevertheless, when he was about to get off the bus, he handed the extra change back to the bus driver, saying he'd been given too much change. The bus driver said, "You're the new minister in town, aren't you?" When the pastor nodded, the bus driver admitted that he had tested his honesty. The driver then said he would see him in church on Sunday. The pastor left the bus. He was so dazed that he held onto a lamppost. He'd nearly sold his witness for the Lord Jesus in that town just for a few cents.

There are no shortcuts to godliness. We must spend considerable time studying God's Word, for it is only then that we can reflect the character of God. The source for our wealth should be spiritual and not large amounts of this world's goods. Our Lord knows a minimum of material things is necessary, for without them life would be very difficult. Jesus didn't scorn things. But when things become the chief purpose for living and people work to get, rather than to give, there's a danger for society and the people living in it.

Every day on the plains of Africa, gazelles wake up with an instinct to run faster than the fastest lion or be killed. When the lions wake up, their instinct is to run faster than the slowest gazelle or starve. A famous preacher wrote about this, saying “If you aren’t seeking the Lord, the Devil is seeking you. If you are not seeking the Lord, judgment is at your heels.” In the Christian life, we’re called to run, to become more like Christ, and to press ahead in godliness and intimacy with God.

A godly person has an unshakeable confidence in God. As soon as there is a problem, the godly person leans on God, trusting Him for everything in full humility. Like Isaiah, when someone you know has made mistakes, it’s better to speak the truth in love and give wounds that heal.

Have you ever done something foolish and greatly regretted it afterwards? I think we’ve all done this at some point or another. We need to pray to God for forgiveness for our wrong attitude and sin. We cannot take the mercy of God for granted. We must confess our mistakes and wrongdoing. We need also to pray for protection for those who may be harmed through our mistakes.

We need to ask ourselves ‘what type of legacy are we leaving for the next generation?’ Each person, believer or nonbeliever, parent or nonparent, is leaving an example for those growing up to follow. Sometimes children see their parents’ mistakes and vow that they’ll never do the same things themselves. But just like Hezekiah, they might pass some tests in life well but at some point, fall down somewhere else.

Not only do we all need God’s forgiveness for our sins and mistakes, we may need to ask a person we have wronged for their forgiveness too. Sadly, not everyone will offer their forgiveness when asked for it. Some think they have suffered too much to forgive the wrongs against them. But an unforgiving attitude leads to anger, bitterness and revenge. These things destroy a person’s life in many ways.

In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 6, the Lord Jesus says: "If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Forgiveness is for our own peace of mind and will outwit Satan. In your prayers, ask God to reveal to you any past hurts that you may not have forgiven. And rejoice that Jesus has forgiven you of everything that has made you unfit for heaven and God's glory.

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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