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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1570 ~ Intrigue Behind the Throne.

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

Years ago, a TV show tested out people's integrity and honesty. A number of young women were shown how a new product removed stains from clothes while they were being washed. All the women were keen to be chosen to do the same demonstration on TV. The demonstrator showed each woman in turn how he poured some liquid stain onto a piece of clothing. Then he applied the new product, which not only took out the stain, but also burnt a sizable hole in the material as well!

The demonstrator then asked each young woman if she would be prepared to go on TV and give the new product some good publicity. A number of hidden cameras filmed their answers. Some women were shocked at the ruined clothing, but others said they could honestly tell the TV viewers that the product takes out stains. When the women were shown their filmed answers, many prepared to tell only half-truths were embarrassed by their answers. These women had been caught out trying to deceive others for their own paid gain.

In today's Bible Adventure, two of King Nebuchadnezzar's most important advisors tricked the king into doing something very foolish. They once had been very important in the king's court until Daniel and his three friends had been promoted over them.

Both were very upset to lose their good positions to Hebrew slaves. The former chief advisor wanted his position back. He must have conveniently forgotten that he'd been under the king's ordered death sentence to all advisors until Daniel got him and the others out of trouble. Daniel could have exposed them all as frauds.

People aren't always grateful to those who save their lives. The deposed leader of the wise men wanted revenge and spent quite some time thinking up a way to get Daniel into trouble. A writer once said that forgiveness is better than revenge, for forgiveness is the sign of a gentle nature, but revenge is the sign of a savage nature.

The deposed leader still had his life and job but not his leadership role. And even though he wasn't happy about this he should have accepted the situation. There is a saying: In acceptance lies peace.

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

Through flattery King Nebuchadnezzar who was ruler of the whole world at the time, was tricked into making a huge statue of gold to represent himself as a new god to worship. The Bible doesn't tell us all the intrigue behind the throne but it's certain that there was plenty of discord and discontent among the advisors in the king's court. The advisors continued to make a number of attempts to get rid of Daniel and his three friends, one of them being this story outlined in the book of Daniel.

King Nebuchadnezzar became the world ruler after he defeated the Egyptians in 605 BC. That same year, he captured Jerusalem and sent the first group of Jewish slaves to Babylon. He was known as having a short temper and everyone who came close to him was very afraid of him.

In those times, kings were usually fearful that they would lose their crown and life to some other ambitious person wanting to be the top leader. One way of keeping their throne secure was for kings to rule with an iron fist, suppressing or destroying all their rivals. Another way was to impress people at just how great and important they were.

Why did King Nebuchadnezzar become so proud that he thought he could become a god? His advisors manipulated his thinking by flattering him. They told him how great and marvellous he was until he believed them. Writers over the centuries have given this advice regarding flatterers: “Beware the flatterer: he feeds you with an empty spoon.” And: “Avoid flatterers, for they are thieves in disguise.”

This advice is consistent with the Old Testament book of wisdom called Proverbs. In chapter after chapter, young men are warned to be pure in their sexual relationships and not to be flattered into making wrongful affairs with morally loose women. So serious is this that in Chapter 6, it says that the person who does enter forbidden relationships destroys his own soul.

A pastor was struggling with problems in his church. He was also having troubles at home. He harshly criticized his wife for nearly everything that she said and did and this was destroying their marriage. He visited a counsellor to see if things could be sorted out. The counsellor soon determined that the wife was a loving person and supported her husband in his ministry.

After a while, the pastor confessed to the counsellor that, many years before, when he was a lonely homesick soldier in a foreign country, he resorted to visiting a prostitute a few times. He was very ashamed of this but instead of confessing the sin and putting it behind him, he'd buried it deep within his inner personality. His past actions robbed him of his peace of mind and security in Christ. With the counsellor's help, the pastor confessed his sin to God and asked his wife for forgiveness too, which she freely gave.

In Luke's Gospel, Chapter 18, the Lord Jesus talked with a man who may have tried to flatter Him. “Good Teacher,” the man said, “what must I do to receive eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone.”

Sometimes people give small compliments or make unnecessary compliments to gain acceptance and manipulate others to do what they want. This man hoped that his request would be received by Jesus in a favourable light by calling him 'good'. No doubt, this man had seen other people ask Jesus questions and receive a rebuke before Jesus answered their question.

A man called Aesop wrote some fables, which are made-up stories to illustrate the virtues in life and give some warnings about unwise behaviour. Aesop lived in Greece around 600 BC. Once you've heard the fable about flattery, you'll always remember it when someone tries to flatter you into doing something that isn't in your best interests. Briefly, the story goes like this:

A crow found a piece of cheese and flew to a tree branch to eat it. A fox, wanting the cheese for himself, flattered the crow, calling the crow beautiful and asked if its voice was as sweet to match its looks. The crow was flattered and opened its beak to let out a caw, but the cheese fell to the ground and was eaten by the fox.

The Apostle Paul set an example for us when he said in the 1st book of Thessalonians, Chapter 2: "We do not try to please people, but to please God, who tests our motives. You know very well that we did not come to you with flattering talk, not did we use words to cover up greed."

Are our motives for what we do pure before God? Purity comes through a daily closeness with God and by reading the Scriptures, and praying and thinking about what we've read. The more of the ways of God we learn from the Bible, the more we open our hearts to the leading of His Holy Spirit and the closer our thinking transforms to do His will. In spending time before God and learning to know Him, we will surrender our own will and decision-making to Him.

Numbers of people claim to be Christians but have never ever confessed their wrongdoing or asked the Lord Jesus to be their Saviour from sin. Self-willed people can have no part in God's eternal home. If you've still trying to run your own life as best you can, cry out to God for help today. Be sure that He will hear your prayers and show you His way to life and abundant joy, as you live close to Him and patiently wait for His guidance.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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