



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1627 ~ A Madman Healed.

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

Up until recent times, anyone unable to cope in life and considered strange in his manner of living was often called a 'madman'. But in modern times, madness has been divided into the different areas of either mental illness or spiritual bondage. The first is depression tied in with negative thinking about personal problems, while the other refers to real demon possession.

People with mental problems may have something physically wrong in their brain, such as with epilepsy. Also or alternatively, they may be entrapped by harmful thought patterns, habits and behaviours which have kept them from living free and productive lives. In Bible times, these behavioural symptoms were often considered to be due to demon possession and therefore, were regarded as being incurable.

There are many things still unknown about mental functioning of the human brain, but we do know that there is a difference between our mind and our brain. Our mind is part of our soul and will live on forever. Our brains are organic matter – when we die physically, we will be separated from our bodies and our brains will return to dust.

Depression often involves a kind of self-obsession in which all the person is able to think about is his own problems, pain and despair. One way to deal with depression and stop the negative cycle is to start praising God for everything you can think of: His greatness, His love, all He has done for you, how valuable you are to Him. Praising God draws focus away from your own problems, while helping others gives us a new sense of purpose in life. Each person has to be willing to throw off excess baggage that invites bondage in the mind.

Whenever we go into a deep sleep, our mind stops thinking.

But our brain keeps right on working, with all the normal body functions continuing like breathing and heart pumping. Demon possession is generally defined as the control of a person's mind or actions by an evil spirit.

In the pecking order of life, God and the Lord Jesus are the most powerful of all. After them come the angels and Satan with all his fallen angels or demons. Next in line are human beings. It is impossible for people to win against Satan or an evil spirit without God's help. Each person battling satanic influences needs to give themselves to Jesus completely and ask Him to break the bondage that they may have created in their own lives.

Today's Bible Adventure drama took place when Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, and comes from Luke, Chapter 4 and Mark, Chapter 1.

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

Our world is made up at present by two kingdoms: God's kingdom of light and Satan's kingdom of darkness. There is a day promised in Scripture when Satan's kingdom will be completely overthrown. For Christians, we need not fear devils and demons because the Holy Spirit living in us is stronger than Satan. But we do need to be careful because we can do nothing in our own strength and shouldn't provoke demons.

Any person can easily open up their lives to satanic influence in many ways. One is by reading a horoscope because the person, either a Christian or non-Christian, think that they'll find out more of their future. Getting involved with a fortune teller can start the process of entering into witchcraft and deception. Some people open their minds to evil spirits by certain types of meditation. Adding the use of illegal drugs and alcohol can further take away mental awareness and self-control. Addicted people are under the influence of an evil spirit.

In Bible times, Jesus healed many people, including children, from demon possession. The most extreme case is given in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 8. A man from the land across the lake from Galilee was called Legion because there were so many demons in him. Along with the demon-possessed man Jesus had healed in the synagogue, these demons in Legion immediately witnessed loudly that Jesus was the Son of the Most High God.

In some cases, demon possession can cause physical problems, such as inability to speak, blindness or self harm.

In other cases, it causes the individual to have a personality change such as depression or aggression, supernatural strength, antisocial behaviour and/or the ability to share new but correct information that one had no natural way of knowing. However, it is important not to label every depressed person as being controlled by an evil spirit.

From missionaries' experiences, demon possession also seems related to the worship of heathen idols and the possession of occult materials.

Some people develop an unhealthy fascination with the occult and demonic activity. This is unwise and unbiblical. Letting our minds dwell on the kingdom of darkness will quickly rob us of the joy we can find in living for Jesus each hour of the day.

Concerning the involvement of demons in the lives of Christians, the apostle Peter is an illustration of the fact that a believer can be influenced by the devil. In Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 16, after the Lord Jesus had told His disciples He was going to be killed, Peter took Him aside and rejected such a thing. Jesus turned from Peter and rebuked 'Satan' and his influence in Peter directly, for Satan through Peter was trying to dissuade Jesus from doing His Father's will.

There are no examples in Scripture of a believer in Christ being possessed by a demon. Most theologians believe that a Christian cannot be possessed because he has the Holy Spirit abiding within him and the Spirit of God will not share residence with a demon. However, a Christian who has wandered from the path of faith may find themselves under attack from an evil spirit.

If we pursue God and clothe ourselves with the whole armour of God to rely on His strength, we have nothing to fear from the evil one, for God rules over all! There's also the additional consideration that Satan and his evil host can do nothing the Lord doesn't allow them to do. This being the case, Satan, while thinking he is accomplishing his own purposes, is actually accomplishing God's good purposes, as in the case of Judas' betrayal.

Many people fear the dark side of the spirit world, the countless number of fallen angels called demons or devils, who, like Satan himself, have become very corrupt and evil. Many books and films have taken advantage of this fear. The reality is, however, that demons fear true Christians far more than true Christians should ever fear them!

Satan's perpetual aim is to intrude into your thoughts with his thoughts and to promote his lies in the face of God's truth. He knows that if he can control your thoughts, he can control your life. If Satan can distract us from the work God has given us to do, he has gained a victory. We must be very careful to watch how we occupy our time. Each day can be filled up with unimportant things and leave us with very little done for the Lord.

Much of what is being passed off today as mental illness is nothing more than a battle for our minds. Proverbs, Chapter 23, says: “As he thinks within himself, so he is.” You don’t do anything without first thinking it. All behaviour is the product of what we choose to think or believe. We cannot know what people are thinking but we can observe what people do. Trying to change a person’s behaviour without changing what they believe and therefore think, will never produce any lasting results.

A 5-year-old boy was sent to the office of his Christian school for hurting several other children in the playground. When quizzed about his behaviour, the boy said he heard voices in his head telling him to hurt others. The thoughts were so loud that the only way to quiet them was to obey, even when he knew he’d get into trouble. With counselling, the boy was able to renounce the bad behaviour and call on Jesus to make the voices in his head leave him.

Satan also uses the strategy of accusing Christians in their minds about some past failure to defeat them and their effectiveness for the Lord. Romans Chapter 8, says: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” It is God who justifies Christians and Jesus sits at the right hand of God, making intercession for us. When accusations come into our minds, we must command Satan to leave us in Jesus’ name.

If you haven’t started out in the Christian life yet, think about these things. God is more powerful than anyone else on earth and He will protect you if you place your whole self into His care and keeping. With time, old habits and patterns of living will be replaced or overcome as you continually renew your mind through Bible reading and prayer.

In Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verse 5, God Himself says: “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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