



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1657 ~ Jesus Reproves Unbelieving Jews.

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

Story tellers and writers know that a good story needs to have a problem or a conflict or crisis that is beyond the characters' control. The story must unfold how the characters respond and overcame the issue at hand, to ideally finish with a happy ending. Such stories might be entertaining fiction but in real life, many times the problems and conflict people face remain unresolved long term.

In a previous Bible Adventure, we heard about Jesus healing a man at Bethsaida on a Sabbath day. From that time onwards, the Temple authorities stepped up their campaign to discredit Jesus by laying traps for Him in the hope that Jesus would say or do something that they could turn into a charge that carried the death penalty. Although Jesus did only good to the people, the Jewish rulers were only interested in the people keeping their rules and respecting their power.

Some of the Pharisee rules were God-given, but many had been added to or changed by the Pharisees with the sole intent to make life more restrictive for the Jewish working-class people. Naturally, some of the Jews became discouraged under these rules and gave up on God when they should have continued to seek God out further for who He really was. Many others, however, couldn't read, so their knowledge of God was only gained by a passing down of Scripture from parent to child in oral story-telling and learning this by heart.

In today's Bible Adventure, the conflict between Jesus and the Temple authorities heats up. In the Bible book of Genesis in Chapter 5, the generations from Adam to Noah are recorded. When God created the first man Adam, Adam was made in the likeness of God. Yet he disobeyed God and sin entered his heart, separating him from peace with God. When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his image who he named Seth. With only the exception of the Lord Jesus, every person who has ever lived and will ever live, has within them this same inherited sin nature that Adam passed onto Seth.

Satan was very clever to claim leadership of God's rightful people for himself so early after creation. Every person on earth is born into Satan's kingdom and needs their sin removed and hearts reconciled to God. Only Jesus, God's Son, can redeem a person from that dark spiritual place of sin and bring them to God's pure presence in Heaven. Sadly, not everyone recognises their spiritually lost condition that one day will doom them from God's presence forever in hell; such people take no interest in the offered resolution and free gift created by God to set things a-right.

Jesus made a point that the Temple rulers belonged to Satan while He Himself belonged to God. But the rulers wouldn't accept that Jesus was from God or a divine person as He claimed, nor could they explain the source of His many good deeds.

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

Today's drama comes from John, Chapter 8. One of the most spectacular aspects of the Feast of Tabernacles was the Temple light ceremony. This ceremony had only just finished when the Lord Jesus made an incredible statement that He was the Light of the World.

In the Temple courts, there were four very tall posts or lampstands with four lights on top of each of them. From the second night of the feast of Tabernacles, all these lights were lit and kept burning throughout the night. Each post had a long ladder leaning against it and every so often, young priests would climb the ladders and refill the olive oil lamps.

Soon after the celebration was under way, a group of Levites gathered at the top of 15 stairs at the women's court and with their instruments, sang 15 Psalms of Degrees, which are what we know as Psalms 120 to 134. With each new psalm, they descended to the next step. This continued from the second night of the feast until the final night.

The light celebration remembered God's glory when Solomon's Temple was dedicated to Him. God's light so filled the Temple that the priests couldn't do their duties.

When Jesus claimed to be the Light of the World, the Pharisees didn't question the meaning of His statement. They knew it was a claim to be the Messiah and so they immediately called Him a liar. When Jesus made this claim, He offered salvation, which would bring spiritual light to more than just the Temple goers, but to the whole world. And Jesus Himself would be the source. In Isaiah, Chapter 49, God says that He would give His Servant (being Jesus) to be a light to the Gentiles so that Jesus would be God's salvation to the ends of the earth. And those who follow Christ will never walk in darkness.

The Pharisees immediately claimed that Jesus' witness of Himself was untrue. Jesus used their Mosaic law in Deuteronomy, chapters 17 and 19, to show that two or three witnesses are required to show the truth. Jesus counted His Heavenly Father as a second witness for Himself.

Not only the Pharisees, but all people who refuse to humble themselves before God will never learn from Jesus Himself. Even though the Pharisees were looking for any excuse to arrest Him, Jesus' time for departing this world hadn't come at that point. For us too, our departure out of this world depends only on God. Our enemies cannot quicken our death nor can our friends delay it. Every true believer can look up and say from Psalm 31: "I trust in you, O Lord; I say: You are my God; my times are in your hand."

The Lord Jesus made it very clear to the Pharisees that because they didn't believe He was the Messiah, they would therefore die in their sins. This meant that they would be unable to enter heaven where God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit dwell. Jesus also told the Pharisees He always did the things that pleased His Father. So if the Pharisees knew God the Father better, then they would also clearly know that Jesus was God's Son.

After all this, Jesus then spoke to the Jews who did believe who He was. He said: "If you obey my teaching, you really are my disciples; you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." What did Jesus mean by 'free'? The Jews claimed to be the descendants of Abraham and not slaves. Yet Jesus told them plainly that everyone who sins is a slave of sin. If Jesus set them free from their sin, they would be truly free inside their hearts.

But the Jews then claimed that God Himself was the only Father that they had and they were His true children. Jesus told them that if they were really God's children, they would love Him, who God had sent to them. But now the Jewish people wanted to kill Him. Jesus said their father was in fact Satan and they were only doing what Satan wanted them to do. As Satan was a murderer from the beginning, there was no truth in him that could be trusted.

Then Jesus asked the crowd: “Which of you can prove that I am guilty of sin? If I tell you the truth, then why do you not believe me?” Jesus showed the Jews that their descent from Abraham could not profit them anything if they held a hostile spirit towards Him. He told them whoever is of God listens to God’s words but if they wouldn’t listen, it was because they were not of God. The truth both heals and feeds the hearts of those who receive it.

The Jews claimed that Jesus had a demon in Him to say such things, but this He denied. Jesus spoke further about a truth that says anyone who keeps Jesus’ words will never die. But because the Jews were worldly, they thought that there was only one death – a physical death Jesus was referring to. But the Bible says there are two types of death – a physical death and a spiritual death. Even though Christians die and their body is buried in the ground, their soul or the immortal part of them, lives on for ever in a new body with the Lord.

Jesus told the Jews that before Abraham was born, Jesus Himself existed. He used the words, “I AM,” which is the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush. Jesus also claimed to be one with God. But such statements made the people very angry and they took up stones to throw at Jesus. So Jesus hid Himself and left the Temple area.

By the end of John, Chapter 8, it seems as though Jesus couldn’t help the people understand the ways of God. In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2, it says that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. Those that don’t have God’s Holy Spirit teaching them God’s truths think that spiritual things are foolish and cannot be understood.

There is no record in the Scriptures that Jesus ever called the tax collectors or sinners ‘children of the devil’. He reserved that title for the deceitful Pharisees. By nature, we are all ‘children of wrath’ and by choice, we become ‘children of disobedience.’ But when you or I receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we become a child of God, joining His family and being part of His royal kingdom. If you or I reject Jesus and have a false righteousness within us, we are in danger of becoming a ‘child of the devil,’ for Satan is a false imitator of God Himself. If Satan becomes our father, hell will be our eternal home with no hope of escape.

Today’s chapter of conflict carries sound teaching for those who believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus was training His disciples to follow Him later after returning to life following dying for the world. Jesus’ words, ‘verily, verily’ mean ‘in truth’, which He said with an emphasis. When a word is repeated in Scripture, it isn’t a stutter, but rather, a significant point that the listener needs to pay attention to. However, for those who listened yet didn’t believe Jesus’ words, the time is coming when all will be a source of frustration, confusion and misunderstanding to them.

Conflict is a part of life and we have to learn how to deal with it in its many forms. Conflict begins when people with opposing points of view are not willing to find common ground in a situation. Many years ago in the United States, two neighbouring farmers had a disagreement about putting up a fence between their properties. One farmer didn’t want to financially contribute to the fence so he declined to be a part of it. The other farmer built the fence to keep his cows in. When they met, the farmer who didn’t want the fence noted that they now had a fence. The second farmer told him that the fence was two feet inside the boundary line and if he saw any of his neighbour’s cows on his strip of land, he’d shoot them.

The neighbour knew that this was no idle threat. So he built a fence on the correct boundary line for half a mile. Even though both these farmers are now long dead, the double fence still stands as a display of poor conflict resolution.

When two parties want their way on an issue and if there's no resolution, over time ill health may become an unintended side effect. One young manager had painful headaches at a certain time of year. He eventually gave in and went to see a doctor about it. Without knowing what the man's occupation was, the doctor explained how the human body reacts to unresolved conflict, which can produce all kinds of sickness and pain.

The job of Christians is to resolve conflict, not to increase it. We are ambassadors of Christ with a message of telling people to be reconciled to God through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first step in resolving conflict is for someone to make the first move. Otherwise great harm can occur and affect office morale, family peace or church unity. When there seems to be no satisfactory answer to a problem, the people need to then agree to disagree, without being disagreeable about this. Words can be used as weapons and must be selected carefully. One man started praying about the office conflicts he was facing with his wife at home. Over time, this prayer time became a rich time of blessings for both of them.

Jesus tells us in John, Chapter 8, Verse 12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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