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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1661 ~ Jesus sends Out the Seventy.

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

When a petrol tanker collided with a truck near a large northern city in Australia, fire and rescue teams and ambulances raced to the scene to help save the drivers' lives and prevent further accidents happening at the crash site. These emergency crews are trained to respond and help clean up when accidents and disasters like this happen. Doing this is their job and people are very comforted to know that they are there to help in times of trouble and emergency.

The Lord Jesus too, was pleased to have many followers He could trust to help Him with His work on earth. He and His chosen 12 disciples were on their way to return to Jerusalem by passing through the region of Samaria. On the way, Jesus taught and preached to whoever was willing to listen to Him. In today's Bible Adventure, the Lord Jesus sent out 70 disciples with instructions on how to prepare the way ahead for Him.

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

At the beginning of Luke, Chapter 9, the Lord Jesus sent out His 12 disciples to heal people with all types of diseases and cast out demons in His name. Then in the next chapter, Chapter 10, Jesus sent out 70 disciples to go into the towns and villages on the way back through Samaria to Jerusalem. They were to prepare the way for the Lord Himself. Jesus told these disciples that anyone who listened to them would listen to Jesus' words when He passed through, but He also warned that those who rejected the disciples' teaching would then reject Him and His heavenly Father.

Jesus named several well-known cities where He had performed many miracles yet the people there had refused to believe in Him. Jesus indicated that on the Judgment Day, these places would carry a greater punishment than those cities where He had hardly visited at all. In Luke, Chapter 12, it says: “Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given.”

When the 70 returned to Jesus, they were rejoicing – even the demons obeyed them in Jesus’ name! But Jesus told them not to rejoice in this. Instead, they should rejoice that their names were written in the book of heaven.

By this Jesus meant when a person believes Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of the world and yet fully God, that person can become a disciple of Jesus. They need to ask Jesus for forgiveness from all past wrong doing and desire to turn away from whatever displeases God in their life. No one can lead another person to Christ to receive salvation until they themselves are saved first.

When a person is saved from the God’s righteous penalty of their sin, they are freed from selfish slavery, to serve God and others for their rest of their life. Jesus’ blood that was shed on the cross symbolically washes away the uncleanness, secrets and guilt inside a person’s heart and mind. God implants a new nature in that person so that His own Holy Spirit can dwell, comfort and teach the mind of the new believer.

In the church, there are many different gifts God shares among the people so the various needs everyone has can be met. These gifts range from the empowered abilities to lead, preach, teach, heal, encourage and share generously. Each gift is used according to the amount of faith that God has given each person. The Lord Jesus doesn’t force His disciples to serve Him; they do so willingly. In Romans, Chapter 12, we are told to be modest in our thinking and to judge ourselves according to the amount of faith God has given us.

The genuine servant of God is humble and obedient to God and His Scriptures. In Matthew, Chapter 20, it says: “Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man (that’s Jesus) came not to be served but to serve others.”

There’s a servant test God gives all potential church leaders in which they are asked to do menial tasks that seem to be below their high calling in God. No unskilled job is below any true servant of God. The purpose of the servant test is to reveal whether a person’s motive is to have a recognised position and be served by others or if they truly desire to help and to serve people. Each leader in the Church needs to be aware of the different experiences and needs among those that they serve, and work towards better communication, unity and finding God’s grace to meet every circumstance.

In Romans, Chapter 12, it says: “Work hard and don’t be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.” When we serve with enthusiasm, our attitude not only energises ourselves, it also rubs off onto others. Regardless of the level of our gifts and abilities, God expects us to invest what He’s given us into the lives of those around us.

A certain printing company employed quite a number of people whom society would consider as losers. The workers had no education and little direction in life but were grateful for a job. At this firm, the workers had a chance of making something of themselves, even though their wages were small. In the same way, God delights in calling workers with little hope of becoming important in the world. He gives great responsibility to people whom the world thinks little of.

In one important ball game held in the United States 25 years ago, the team with the most points saw that there were only a few minutes left to play before winning the game. The team changed the way they played to use up the little time left. The players started watching the clock rather than wholeheartedly playing the game. As a result of this team taking their eyes off the ball, the losing team quickly made up the points they needed and ended up winning the game.

When Jesus calls us to be aware of the 'signs of the times,' He clearly called us to use our energies in faithful, active service for Him. As we await Jesus' promised return, we aren't to sit around wasting time but rather, to be diligent servants during the little time we have left on this earth before we face eternity.

A Christian medical student in his final year of study felt God saying to him, "I don't want you to study on Sundays." The student was very competitive and liked to do well. He was sure he needed to study on Sundays but with God's words in his heart, he agreed that he wouldn't. We can become so focused on our own goals that many other things become cut out of our lives. But God knows best. The student did even better in his final exams than ever before. We all need God's leading in our lives so we can be at our best for His glory and joy.

When we are doing service for the Lord, can we always expect to be successful? In the times of Noah, which were quite similar to our own times, Noah warned his neighbours for 120 years that God was going to judge them. But they wouldn't listen. Was Noah a failure in what he did? He'd faithfully told the people God's truth and by believing and obeying God, he and his family were saved.

In 1882, a missionary arrived in an African country to work for the Lord but he became so sick that he had to return home within a year. After getting well he returned. Nine months later while travelling to his destination, he was speared to death. Many people were greatly puzzled by this and wondered why God would allow such effort and dedication to fail. This story is one of many mysteries that we on earth will never understand. But we can trust that God, who is 100% good, has a greater plan that one day, He will explain fully in eternity.

God's an expert at turning failures into advantages. Some Christians maintain an unshaken trust in God even when what they considered to be divinely-given plans are lying broken all around them. A little known group of Christian men went to South America to found a mission. Due to lack of food, they died – one by one. The last man wrote in his diary that the failure of what he regarded as a God-given plan could not rob him of his trust in God. He asked only to be in God's will and even with no outward sign of success, he didn't complain.

How each Christian needs a strong faith like this to triumph in the face of all obstacles, even death! But such faith doesn't come from our own efforts or striving; it only comes from God's good hand. What we are called to do is listed in Micah, Chapter 6, Verse 8: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

It's often asked: "Is it a sign of spiritual immaturity in us that we must see the success?" How then do we cope if our spiritual cause that we believe to be God-given is not fruitful or lasting? While everyone desires success, it's always wrong to demand it. Our world is made up of powers and principalities that we can't see. Our success on this earth is only a portion of God's plan for success in the heavenly realms. God's grace is always available to address every situation. In difficult times, we must cling closely to our Lord.

Sometimes broken and shattered plans may be God's way of leading us on to an even bigger contribution to His kingdom. When the Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos for his loyalty to the Gospel, it would have seemed that his ministry and all his plans had come to an end. Yet in this place of isolation, John was given a revelation of things to come in the future. What he heard and saw while on that island became the last book of the Bible, The Revelation to John.

When things go wrong, we mustn't allow ourselves to sink into self-pity. Instead, we should rejoice in the will of God and pray that it will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Be thankful for all that you are going through, for, just as the Lord Jesus suffered here on earth, so do His disciples. Be an imitator and ambassador of Christ. This trouble may be God's way of bringing you to the place where He will show you a new and better path to follow. But if no new paths appear to lead you out of the trouble, then you will be given the grace you need to handle the situation as it is – as an overcomer in Christ!

One writer has said: "No person of the humblest kind can really be strong, gentle, pure and good without the world being better for it, and without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness."

In Psalm 100, Verse 2, it says: "Serve the Lord with gladness." Serve the Lord with gladness in everything you do and think.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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