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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1678 ~ Jesus Answers Questions.**

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

Today's *Bible Adventure* is about asking the hard questions. Sometimes we ask hard questions that we don't need to know the answers for. Corrie ten Boon tells in one of her books how she asked her father a hard question as they were travelling in a train. The question was, "What is sex sin?" Her father turned to look at her, as he always did when answering a question, but to her surprise, he said nothing.

At last he stood up, lifted his travelling case from the rack over their heads and set it on the floor. "Will you carry it off the train, Corrie?" he asked. Corrie stood up and tried to pick it up. It was crammed with watches and spare parts he had purchased that morning. "It's too heavy," she said.

"Yes," he replied. "And it would be a pretty poor father who would ask his little girl to carry such a load! In the same way, Corrie, with knowledge. Some knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older and stronger, you can bear it. For now you must trust me to carry it for you." Corrie was satisfied with his answer and wonderfully at peace. There were answers to this and all her hard questions, but for the time being, Corrie was content to leave them in her father's keeping.

And so it is in finding peace, we must leave many questions in our heavenly Father's keeping.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, the chief priests and Temple rulers weren't looking for knowledge about things they didn't understand. Rather, they were asking questions with the intent of gaining something against the Lord Jesus; something that they could have Him arrested and tried for. Yet God brings good out of evil things. The answers Jesus gave the religious leaders are recorded in the Scriptures so that we can know and understand.

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

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After the Lord Jesus had driven the people and animals out of the Temple court of the Gentiles, the rulers and chief priests were more determined than ever to trap Jesus into saying something – anything – wrong so they could have Him arrested. They were furious that so many people were following Jesus while He claimed to be God. The tests they set for Jesus are recorded in Matthew, Chapter 22, Mark, Chapter 12 and Luke, Chapter 20.

Representatives of three religious groups, the Pharisees, the Herodians and the Sadducees, were sent to ask Jesus hard questions that would entangle Him up in controversy. The Herodians decided to ask Jesus a political question. They were strong supporters of the Herod family and tried to please Roman authorities. This alignment to Caesar would have normally put them greatly at odds with the Pharisees. However on this occasion, these groups worked together at this time to get rid of Jesus.

The Herodians came with some Pharisees to Jesus and firstly flattered Him. Then they asked Him if it was right to pay taxes to Rome. But Jesus saw straight through their trap. When Jesus came to earth, He was fully man but also fully God. God has three characteristics of being present everywhere, having unlimited power and knowing everything. Jesus' human body at that stage limited Him to only one place in time, but He knew what these Herodians were thinking.

Jesus asked the Herodians why they were trying to trap Him. Then He called for a coin and asked whose name and face was on it. 'The Roman emperor' was the reply. Jesus answered, "Pay to the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor and pay to God what belongs to God." Jesus clearly told them to pay their taxes. He recognised the authority of Rome whether it was fair and pure or not. Although the Jewish people had lost their independence, Rome had given them many other benefits, such as roads, peace and security. It was the Jewish people's duty to pay for these advances in their society.

All of those who love the Lord Jesus and have been saved for eternity belong to the Kingdom of Heaven, even though they still live down here on earth. In the same way, we are to give our taxes to our national government and ourselves to God. There is usually no conflict in our duty to the government and our duty to God. Only when the government forces us to disobey God's law must we oppose the government on such a matter.

In Acts, Chapter 5, Peter and the other apostles were put in prison for teaching about the Lord Jesus. The chief priests had strictly told them not to teach in Jesus' name. When arrested and replying to the high priest, the apostles said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." God sent an angel to release these men from prison – so they could tell more people about salvation through His Son. In the book of Daniel, it records a law being brought in that to make it illegal to pray, but Daniel prayed anyway. In Acts, it became unlawful to preach in the name of Jesus, but the apostles preached anyway, no matter the cost.

Later that day after the Herodians had questioned Jesus, the Sadducees decided to ask Jesus a doctrinal question. The Sadducees were a small Jewish sect and not mentioned in the Old Testament but they gained some political clout in the 400-year period between the Old and New Testaments. They were educated men who limited their doctrines to the first five books of the Old Testament. As a result, they denied the resurrection of the dead or the existence of angels or spirits.

The Sadducees were very logical and as there was no hard proof about eternity or a spirit world, they wouldn't believe it. For such people, where the Bible isn't logical to them at some point, they will always choose believing the logic over believing the Bible. Many today are like the Sadducees. They say that where science disagrees with the Bible at some point, they will choose science over God's Word. But time and again, the Bible has been proven true and science must catch up to what the Word has said all along!

The Sadducees gave Jesus a hypothetical or made-up situation about a Jewish man with six brothers and a wife. In Deuteronomy, Chapter 25, if a man's brother died childless, the man was required to take the widow as his wife and raise up a male child on behalf of his brother. The reason for this was so that property held in the brother's family name and possession might remain in the family and not be married out to another family. The Sadducees asked Jesus whose wife the woman would be in the resurrection if she'd been married to all seven brothers.

Jesus told them that they were deceived and didn't know the Scriptures or the power of God. He said there would be no marriage in heaven and all people will be like the angels in this aspect. On earth, marriage is necessary to produce children and to prevent the human race from dying out. But in heaven, there is no death and the church is deemed Christ's bride instead.

Jesus also refuted their argument that there is no life after death by saying to them that God is the God of the living and not the God of the dead. In Exodus, Chapter 3, God told Moses: "I *am* the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

When God said "I AM" (in the present tense) the God of these three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had been dead for many centuries. Yet Jesus clarified that these men aren't really dead; they are alive and He is still their God ... He is still their great "I AM". He didn't say "I WAS their God", but "I AM!" When the people heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

For Christians, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! For all people, death is not complete destruction but rather, separation. We need to ask ourselves this most serious question: "Where will I be separated to?"

It's very unwise to disagree with what God says about the afterlife. Not everyone believes in heaven and most don't believe in hell. But the Bible teaches that absolutely everybody will believe in both after they die. Will we believe God or not? He is the one with the final authority on these matters.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they decided to think up an ethical question to ask Him. The Pharisees thought that different commandments had different values, with some being more important than others, so they asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment to follow. A lawyer some time before had asked Jesus how he could inherit eternal life, in Luke, Chapter 10. The answer to both questions was the same. In Matthew, Chapter 23 Jesus answered: " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all you soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The Pharisees didn't seem to understand that all sin separates a person from God. There are no such things as 'little white lies'; lies are all black and regarded by God as sin. Each answer Jesus gave these three groups made them marvel at Him. They couldn't trap him at all.

Then it was Jesus' turn to ask them a question. He asked the Pharisees, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They answered, "The Son of David." Jesus replied, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord', saying in Psalm 110: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?" ' Jesus asked, "If David then calls Him 'Lord', how is He his Son?"

No one was able to answer Jesus and from that time on, no one dared ask Him any more questions.

There is a great difference between religion and Christianity. Religion is following a set of rules as best as we can. Christianity is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Religion starts on the outside and tries to work its way inward. Christianity is Christ's Spirit living within each believer's heart and is a real guide, teacher and comforter. The Holy Spirit changes our lives by renewing our thought patterns and beliefs from the Bible, making us willing to obey whatever He wants us to do.

The Pharisees thought that they could get to heaven by keeping the law – all 613 commandments all wrapped up together. But we know that apart from the Lord Jesus, no one throughout their life has ever kept the full requirements of the law given to Moses. The law shows us our sinfulness and hopeless state until we come to the cross of Jesus. He frees us from the law and He gives us grace to live a life of love – love for God and love for people. Such should be the motive behind all our actions. If we make a mistake, it's usually due to a lack of love for someone. How much do we really love God?

Maybe we should ask ourselves first: How much does God really love us? In Psalm 103, Verse 11, it says: "As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is God's love for those who honour Him." Let's follow Jesus' model and love Him in return with all of our lives.

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

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