



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS**

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1700 ~ By the Sea Once More.**

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

People often get upset and disappointed when things don't turn out the way that they had planned. But in life, no one gets their heart desires all the time.

Nearly 40 years ago, a 9-year-old boy was competing in the youth speed skating national championships. He was in a good position to win his first national title when, coming around a turn, he tripped on a rubber hose that they had set up as a lane marker. That trip cost him the title by just one point.

The boy's disappointment at losing the championship was immense. He cried as his mother took off his skates and during the award ceremonies. He was still crying when they got in the family car and drove six hours to reach home. His father never said a word to him all the way home. As they got out of the car in their driveway, his father quietly said, "There's more to life than skating around in a circle." His father's different perspective on life gave the boy strength to face all the many future disappointments he went on to experience. But in the end, he won an Olympic gold medal in the last race of his career.

When we're disappointed in ourselves, we often carry the burden of knowing that we've disappointed others around us. This was the case with Simon Peter, one of Jesus' close disciples who had boasted that even if all the other disciples deserted their Lord in His hour of need, Peter certainly wouldn't.

Now that Jesus had risen from the grave and appeared to Peter and the other disciples, Peter was at last at peace with himself again.

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

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This particular fishing trip that the disciples made is only recorded in John, Chapter 21. After Jesus had appeared to His disciples a second time, He had gone to Galilee, where He had told His disciples to meet Him there. At the time when John wrote his Gospel, the Sea of Galilee had been renamed to be 'The Sea of Tiberias' in honour one of the Roman emperors living around that time.

While waiting for the Lord Jesus to arrive, the disciples decided to go fishing. But after an all-night effort, they'd caught nothing. Jesus appeared on the shore early the next morning, although at first, they didn't recognise Him. Jesus knew that they had caught no fish but He wanted them to tell Him that for themselves. When we confess to Jesus our own lack of ability and power in ourselves, Christ will supply our needs.

One of the disciples said that they had caught no fish, Jesus instructed them to lower their net on the other side of the boat. There they caught so many fish that they couldn't pull the net up into the boat. As soon as John saw the miraculous catch in the net, he knew who the man on the shore was. "It's the Lord!" he exclaimed and Peter quickly jumped into the water and swam ashore.

The other disciples towed the net full of fish back to the shore. On the beach, Jesus already had some fish cooking on a fire. Evidently, there weren't enough fish there for all the disciples to eat a full meal, so Jesus told them to bring some fish from their huge catch.

The net was finally dragged up onto the shore and they counted 153 large fish. Even though the disciples knew the man on the shore was Jesus, there was something different about Him. But they were too afraid to ask Him what it was.

When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Peter if he truly loved Jesus. Peter had denied his Lord three times after Jesus was arrested and hadn't shown his love at all by such actions. Peter didn't try to prove how much he did, because he knew that he'd already failed. He knew that his love was weak and that he didn't love Jesus more than the other disciples did.

Jesus responded by telling him to prove his love by obeying Jesus and taking care of His lambs. Jesus was the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep. Jesus was entrusting Peter to take care of His sheep, feeding them and being an example for them to the point of dying for them.

Two more times Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter was hurt when Jesus asked the third time. Because Peter had denied Jesus three times, he now had to tell Jesus three times that he truly loved Him. Each time Peter answered, Jesus told him to be a shepherd to the flock. In doing this, Jesus restored to Peter his authority as a leader in the coming church. The other disciples might not have accepted Peter because of his sin of denying Jesus. But Jesus here three times appointed Peter to be a shepherd. Peter had been forgiven and now he was reinstated to the work Christ had appointed him to do.

Notice that Jesus only asked Peter about his love. To be a shepherd of people, there is only one thing necessary: love for Jesus. Without love for Jesus, no person can love the flock. And without love for the flock, no person can be a shepherd. Those who do not love Jesus do not truly love people.

All believers in Christ are called to be fishers of men but also, to be feeders of the flock whenever there's an opportunity to encourage and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Jesus made a prediction about Peter's future and how he would be crucified to glorify God. And early church historians recorded that Peter did indeed die in such a terrible manner. But for each one of us who follow Christ, it should be our concern that, no matter how we die, our death will bring glory to God. And God will be glorified as we remain patient, faithful and loving to the end of our days.

Jesus finished talking to Peter by saying, "Follow me." Jesus had said those words to Peter three years earlier on the same shore of Galilee. Peter had not followed well but now that Jesus had given him another chance, Peter would never deny his Lord again. To receive Jesus and believe in Him means for us, like Peter, to follow Him wherever He calls us to go.

John Newton, the writer of the hymn 'Amazing Grace' spent a great deal of time writing letters to encourage Christians in their daily walk with the Lord. In 1767, he wrote about disappointment. He made the point that it's natural for us to wish and plan, but it is merciful for the Lord to sometimes disappoint our plans and deny our wishes. We cannot feel secure or even happy until we are weaned away from our own wills, for God wants us to simply desire to be directed by His guidance.

The truth of God's Word is often known in theory but we fail to put it into practice until we've spent some time in the school of disappointments and hard knocks. We have to learn that we cannot choose wisely for ourselves. Then the Lord's invitation to cast all our cares upon Him and trust His promise to take care of us becomes so much more important and valuable to us.

When we resign from trying to plan our own lives and make a commitment to follow God's plan for us, His plan for our benefit gradually is revealed. We discover that He does more and better for us than we could either ask or think. When we try to control our lives, we judge things by their present circumstances; but the Lord sees them in their consequences. The future is always hidden to us but not to the Lord Almighty. It's a great mercy to us that He will manage our way through life.

When God's plan for our lives is refused, one of His heaviest judgments comes into play: this is to allow any such person or people to go the way of their own choosing. Humanly speaking, this may well lead to their spiritual and physical ruin. Those who dispute with the Lord's directions will find that, although He is patient and kind, He will also both shame and humble us, and bring us to an ultimate confession that He is wiser than we are.

The great and unexpected benefits He plans for us will only be ours if we live by the discipline of making our wills subject to His. The more completely we do this, the less we'll be overtaken by disappointment. When we seek God's way for us, it's not necessary that we be rich or wise, healthy or admired by others. Those things may be given to us or withheld as the Lord in His wisdom appoints for each of us. Rather, it is necessary for each believer to be humble and spiritual, seeking a close relationship with God so as to be a good witness for the Gospel. Christ will be pleased to call us to glorify Him further in the world, whether it be by service or suffering.

Many Christians feel that they are entitled to some kind of protection from the adversities of life. Things should just keep getting better and better. The reality is that trials and temptations come into our lives to test our faith and produce in us the quality of endurance. So we should welcome problems as friends and not as intruders. We must keep the attitude that everything that happens to us can be used to further God's plans.

God's promise for believers in Jesus is that He will never allow one single problem to come our way without making sure that we have the grace or strength to handle it.

We must understand that trials bring us closer to the Lord to depend on Him. Most Christians admit that they fail in this regard and instead of rejoicing when troubles come, they rejoice when troubles go. When we meet our troubles head on and with thankful hearts, we immediately rob them of their power to harm us.

Our faith is often strengthened right at the place of our disappointments. As bitter as any loss may be, when we know the Lord, there is always much more to life than any disappointment that we are now facing.

In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 9, it says: "But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'" Rest assured there'll be no disappointments in heaven.

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

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