



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1707 ~ A Lame Man's Faith.

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

One of the greater sorrows in life experienced by families is for a child to be born with a disability. For some, the price of many operations to help correct the child's body is too much to consider. When the parents of such children grow old and can no longer look after their disabled adult son or daughter, family relatives often find they have to help out wherever they can.

Growing up disabled can be a tremendous struggle in some ways. While some people grow bitter at God for allowing such a thing to happen, others in time come to accept that they will always need help from others. Often those in this accepting group become Christians. They accept that God has allowed them to have this problem for a reason.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, we see the struggles of a man born crippled soon after the Lord Jesus had ascended back into heaven. Getting work in those days was hard and because the crippled man couldn't work in the fields, his family was quite poor.

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

The account of the crippled man being healed is written in Acts, Chapter 3. For those who didn't know, the limbs of anyone crippled from birth are always badly shrunken and deformed. No medicine or operation can ever fully restore such a deformity. As wheelchairs weren't invented for at least another 1,500 years after this story, it would have been very hard for adult cripples like this man to even leave his home and take a trip anywhere. He'd have had to be moved to the Temple at Jerusalem by others using a donkey and a cart.

Despite his lifestyle, the crippled man knew a lot about Jesus from having spoken to others coming and leaving the Temple. He had faith that Jesus could cure him. Imagine his great disappointment to find out that Jesus had died about six weeks earlier! However, with a bit of help, he was able to sit every day at the Gate called 'Beautiful', close to the entrance of the Temple, to ask for gifts from those going inside.

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was powerfully given to 120 believers in Jerusalem, 3,000 people had been added to the church. The new converts devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, having the Lord's Supper and prayer. Those new believers in Christ didn't have the New Testament as we do. So they learnt about Christ and how to follow Him by listening to the apostles. Later, such teachings were written down and kept.

The Bible says that the new believers in Christ did everything together, including sharing the care of those needy in the community. When others outside that group saw the compassionate and enthusiastic lives of those first believers, they came to join in. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The apostles continued going to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem to worship and pray, even though they had put their faith in Christ. All the apostles, as well as the Lord Jesus, were Jewish. Christianity came out of Judaism, just as the Christian Scriptures include the Old Testament. One afternoon, about 3 o'clock Peter and John came past the crippled man on their way to the Temple to pray. He asked them for alms or a gift for the poor and needy. But Peter and John had no money to give him.

Peter had the Holy Spirit's healing power within him and this was much better than any money. So Peter said to the crippled man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Through the power of the Holy Spirit living within Peter, Jesus healed that man instantly and completely. What joy that man received! He asked for a bit of money and instead, he was given the ability to walk and jump and leap. How he praised God!

The people who had seen the miracle were also amazed. "How could this happen?" the people wondered. The prophecy in Isaiah, Chapter 35, about the coming age of the Messiah had come true. It said: "Then will the lame leap like a deer." Is there anyone without hope, or peace or a godly purpose in life? Then let that person call on Jesus and believe.

Should every disabled person seek healing? The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians asked three times to be healed from his 'thorn in the flesh', but God gave it to him to keep him humble. The Lord said to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." In the same way, some people born with a disability believe God has allowed the disability to occur so they will always live very closely with Him.

A 30-year-old Australian woman was born unable to walk, and she gets about in a wheelchair. She became a Christian in her early teens after an overseas Christian aunt came and visited. At first, she didn't have any contact with other church people but over time, she was invited to visit the church just down the road.

Because her disability makes her very tired, this lady takes longer than the average person to achieve the same thing. When she has to rest her body, her mind can still be thinking about things and reflecting on life. This has developed her into becoming a writer and a poet. She believes that God has given her a lot of wisdom from talking to other people who are struggling with life as well. And she is able to pass on what she's learnt through her own struggles.

This lady – Stevie is her name – achieved very good results at high school. Yet she couldn't keep up the physical pace at university and so had to drop out. This was a crushing disappointment to her and the start of a bout of depression. Stevie went to a Bible college and studied a diploma in Christian Studies. After thinking about how much pain there is in the world, she then started a diploma in counselling. Her tiredness slowed down her progress yet again, but she persevered and completed the course in 6 ½ years. Was she ever so happy!

Stevie said that the church is in a unique position to reach out to people with disabilities. There are many disabled people who only know people who are paid to be with them; however, the church offers real friendships. Stevie said that her friends know what she needs because they've come to know her so well. She was a friend before she was someone that needed help.

Stevie said: "One day, my friends gave me a wombat brooch. God spoke to me that night and told me that He created the wombat to be slow and that slowness isn't a defect. So I do the things in the time I'm meant to get them done, which isn't the time I'd like to get them done. Some days I can't do anything. I need to be reminded that it's not how much I do, but about who I am. It's such a hard thing to learn. We're so focused on doing, doing, doing. But on rest days, I learn things from God that I wouldn't have otherwise."

“God’s grace is sufficient for me in my weakness; He is strong. And I see God using me in ways that I don’t understand. So many people tell me that I’m an inspiration to them. I just do what I have to do but God chose me to inspire others.”

“One of the most annoying things people can do is to offer to pray for me to be healed, like I should be somebody else. We all have weaknesses; some people can’t walk; some can’t do maths. Disability seems to be put in another category, like it’s something that needs to be fixed or it’s part of the Fall. I know, I’m what I’m meant to be. And if I was anything else, there’s no way I’d be doing what I’m doing now.”

Stevie shows that she believes in what the Scriptures say about contentment. In Philippians, Chapter 4, the Apostle Paul says: “I have learned to be satisfied with what I have.” And in 1st Timothy, Chapter 6, it says: “Godliness with contentment is great gain.”

How much should we blame God if our body doesn’t rate at least between average and perfect in this life? We can all be complainers about little things, but need to ask for forgiveness about this, as complaining and grumbling are not acceptable to God. The Children of Israel was so judged by God for doing this very thing that the people were required to travel around in the wilderness for 40 years until all those over 20 years of age had died!

Be rest assured: God always has our best interests at heart. We must learn to accept what He has allowed or chosen for us, and trust Him to lead us step-by-step through this life, to reach the glory of God that’s beyond in heaven. If the Holy Spirit gives us faith to know Jesus’ healing is for us or someone we know, let us embrace Jesus’ authority over the problem and seek earnestly for the same freedom that Peter and John gave the crippled man in today’s story. Praise be to God, no matter what our disabilities may be, for we are His both in this life and the next.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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