



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1726 ~ Peter's Vision.

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

A renowned missionary to China, Gladys Aylward, brought a hundred orphans aged 4 to 15 safely over the mountains in China to escape the invading Japanese army of World War II. But by the time she arrived at a safe destination with the children, she was gravely ill and needed considerable time to recover.

Gladys had learnt to choose Christ over anything else life had to offer. She'd declined to marry the man she loved because she knew that marriage would interfere with the work God had given her among the children in China. She served God in China and England until her death in 1970.

Through our times of suffering in ministry, God wants us to learn obedience to His calling and increase our maturity in Christ. Simon Peter had been staying with Simon the Tanner at the seaport of Joppa when he received a vision from heaven. The vision showed many animals that God had classified as 'unclean' in the Old Testament covenant times and which the Israelites weren't allowed eat. Over time, the Jewish people had further established a system of belief whereby all people who were not born as Jews were considered unclean too. This meant that Jews and Gentiles could have no fellowship or business dealings with each another.

Peter struggled with the meaning of his vision until the Holy Spirit told him that there were three men at the gate to Simon's house and that he was to go with them. He realised that the men were Gentiles but he knew that God wanted obedience in this matter and he couldn't refuse the request.

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

If God's Holy Spirit hadn't told Peter to go to a Gentile's house, Peter would most certainly have refused. It's recorded in Acts, Chapter 10, that Peter took some Jewish Christians from Joppa to be witnesses of what he said and did while in Cornelius' house. Peter knew that he'd be criticised for going to the house of a Gentile.

When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house, Cornelius fell at Peter's feet in reverence. But Peter stopped him and told him to get up. In other religions, it's custom to bow down at the feet of respected teachers or important officials. But this isn't to be done among Christians. We show respect to all people but our reverence is dedicated only to God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

For this reason, Christians must never take for themselves glory or honour that only Christ should receive. In 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4, the Apostle Paul speaks about how we humans are like jars of clay. We are ordinary, weak and breakable. But within our fragile 'jars', we have a great treasure, which is the Gospel of the glory of Christ. The Gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes in Jesus.

God desires to use weak people like us so that we and others can see our own natural weaknesses yet know that the spiritual power to overcome the world within us is from God, and not from ourselves.

Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit and went to Cornelius' house. But what is obedience to us? Wise Christian writers of the past have said:

"Obedience is the burial of the will and the resurrection of humility."

"The cost of obedience is small compared with the cost of disobedience." "Obedience to God is always for our good and His glory. God desires the least degree of obedience and submissiveness more than all those services you think of rendering Him."

When God placed Adam and Eve in the paradise known as the Garden of Eden, He placed only one condition on them to stay there. Nothing was said about faith, humility or love. He asked them for only one thing: obedience. The authority of God demands obedience, as this decides a person's future destiny.

If we then turn to the end of the Bible in Revelations, Chapter 22, it says: "Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life." From the beginning to the end, from paradise lost to paradise regained, the law has remained unchanged. We can obey through the power of the grace of God given to us through Jesus. For it's obedience that gives access to the tree of life and the favour of God.

Adam and Eve's disobedience blocked the way to the tree of life. Christ's obedience to die on the cross has allowed all people of the world to gain entrance to it again but they need to believe in Christ's offer and the ability to forgive all sin. In Romans, Chapter 5, it says: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."

And in Hebrews, Chapter 5, it says: "Though He [Jesus] was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which he suffered. And having been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." From these verses, we can see how Christ restored obedience to its rightful place and brings us back to live a life of obedience to His rule.

Many of the Old Testament leaders lived lives of obedience to God's commands. In Genesis, Chapter 6, God gave Noah as the new father of the human race a long list of things to do to prepare an ark to save himself and his family from the floodwaters that God said He was going to send. Noah obeyed all that God commanded him to do.

Abraham, the father of the chosen Israelite race, obeyed God by faith. In his test of obedience, Abraham bound his son Isaac to become a sacrifice to God. God didn't let Abraham harm the boy but promised to bless Abraham because he obeyed to such a point. The way to be a blessing to the world is to be people of obedience, known by God and those around us as being completely yielded to God's will.

Moses taught the Israelites God's message in Exodus, Chapter 19: "If you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people." Only by obedience to God's will is it possible to be His people. The Israelite people didn't obey God and the consequence was a 40-year journey around in a wilderness.

The next new beginning came as the Israelites were about to enter the land of Canaan. Canaan, just like the Garden of Eden and heaven itself, can only be a place of blessing if it's a place of obedience. Let's beware of praying only for a blessing. Let us seek obedience first, and God will supply the blessing. Our constant question as a Christian should be, "How can I obey and please God in everything that He wants me to do?"

Another new beginning in the Bible was the appointment of the kings in Israel. The first king, Saul the son of Kish, disobeyed God twice. Saul made excuses for his disobedience but God didn't accept them and ultimately took the kingdom away from him. Many of the kings who followed Saul were also disobedient and served other gods but not the God of Heaven Himself.

Yet when we come to the New Testament, we find the Lord Jesus saying: "I come to do your will, O God." And, "I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me." If we look into Jesus' teaching, we find that throughout the Gospels that the obedience Jesus gave His Father God is the same that He requires of everyone who wishes to be His disciple. From the beginning to the end of His ministry, obedience was the gateway to finding salvation. He said: "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Obedience is only possible through a heart that's determined to obey. God has given us His wonderful Holy Spirit to teach and convict us of any disobedience. But the Bible says clearly that in the end times there'll be a great 'falling away' from God's authority and the denying of the very basics of the Gospel by many who still call themselves Christians.

Why should this be so? Such people may have made a 'decision' to serve Christ in a church service and were assured that they had received Christ as their Lord and Saviour, but over time, show no evidence of God's Holy Spirit living in their lives. These conversions may not have been deep and true, like the seed that's described in the Parable of the Sower – people say they trust Jesus but live like everyone else in the world and without guidance from any Bible teaching.

Gospel presentations have changed over the last 100 years. Unsaved people are urged to become Christians with words like, "Accept Jesus as your personal Saviour", "Ask Jesus into your heart", "Invite Christ into your life" or "Make a decision for Christ." None of these words are found in the Bible yet are often used as a part of a quick and easy-believe approach.

The gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship; to follow Him in submissive obedience and not just a plea to make a decision or pray a prayer. Jesus' message completely freed people from the bondage of their sin while it confronted and condemned hypocrisy. It was an offer of eternal life and forgiveness for repentant sinners. But at the same time, it was a rebuke to outwardly religious people whose lives were devoid of true righteousness.

Jesus' message put sinners on notice that they must turn from sin and embrace God's righteousness. It was in every sense 'Good News', yet it was anything but an easy-believe approach. Our Lord's words about eternal life were accompanied by warnings to those who might be tempted to take Jesus' salvation lightly. He taught that the cost of following Him is high, that the way is narrow and that few ever find it. Jesus

said in Matthew, Chapter 7, that many who call Him "Lord" will be forbidden from entering the kingdom of heaven. Although they thought they were Christians and could even cast out demons in Jesus' name, Jesus will deny ever knowing them.

Those people who cling to the memory of a one-time decision of faith years ago but lack evidence of the outworking of faith in their lives had better heed the clear and solemn warning of John, Chapter 3, Verse 36: "He who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." Seek God and put aside all that hinders you to obey and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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