



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS**

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1953 ~ John and His Disciples.**

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

Some years ago, a parachutist while doing a routine jump found both his parachute and his emergency parachute entangled and couldn't be opened. They were useless to break his speed as he plunged down towards the earth.

At a height of 2,000 feet, he shouted down to his friends on the ground. They ran with a safety pad to the spot where he would land and held it tight. The impact of his fall destroyed the pad and threw all his friends to the ground. However, when the dust settled, the parachutist only had suffered a sprained ankle and a few cuts. The help and cooperation of his friends saved his life.

The opposite of cooperation is non-cooperation, which usually shows itself in disagreements and arguments. And yet when we differ in our opinions from someone else, we don't need to be disagreeable and make an unhappy atmosphere.

An elderly couple who'd been married for 60 years moved into a retirement village. From when they got up in the morning until they went back to bed at night, they argued. They didn't seem to agree on anything. Their neighbours soon became upset about the unpeaceable atmosphere that they had brought to the village. Yet, remarkably, both these two elderly people thought that they were going to heaven.

When the village management threatened to throw them out, the disagreeable wife thought up an answer to their problem! She said to her husband that they should pray to God to take one of them home and then she'd go and live with her sister! Our thoughts reveal our true self, whether it be kindly or self-serving. When we don't have other people's best interests and welfare at heart, we deny the love of God a place in our lives. God always has our very best interests on His mind, even when we're going through our tough times.

In today's *Bible Adventure*, a disagreement arose between the disciples of John the Baptist and those of the Lord Jesus. Our drama starts with an interview between the high priest and one of his scouts watching and reporting on activities of the Lord Jesus and John the Baptist.

After the Lord Jesus had started His preaching and healing ministries, He didn't tell John the Baptist to retire and find something else to do. He respected the work that John had done and was still doing. Jesus moved His own disciples to a different area so there'd be no continuing disagreements between the different followers.

The high priest's scout, a Pharisee, had stood listening to these disagreements but still rated John the Baptist as more influential than Jesus over the Jewish people. Either way, however, the high priest knew that the traditional priestly roles were being sidelined and people were no longer listening to them and their teaching.

No established leader likes to give up the power that he holds to someone else, especially a rival or an opponent who will undo his work. The high priest wanted to stay on top of the situation and not let power be taken away from him.

The disagreement between the two different groups of disciples is recorded in John's Gospel, Chapter 3, and the beginning of Chapter 4. Once the conflict of loyalty became known to the Pharisees, Jesus moved back to Galilee.

The Lord Jesus on this occasion played the role of peacemaker. In His famous Sermon on the Mount, listed in Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 5, Jesus taught God's standard of righteousness for our internal attitudes and outward actions. No one can be saved trying to obey the Sermon on the Mount any more than a person can be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments. Because they involve inner attitudes, the demands of the Sermon on the Mount are much more difficult to follow than those found in the Law of Moses. Only those who truly believe in Jesus Christ can put the Sermon on the Mount into practice, as such principles are controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount that blessed are those who are makers and maintainers of peace, for they shall be called the sons of God. It's clear that arguments and strife don't advance the kingdom of God.

The letter from James, Chapter 4, says: "Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you. ... You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it., And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures." Frustrations come from a lack of contentment with what God has provided for us, and it leads to competition with others.

The Apostle Paul said in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, Chapter 6: “Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quarrel over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they’ve turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.”

It is hard to maintain an inner peace under constant quarrelling and we’re told to withdraw ourselves from the company of such people. In Titus Chapter 3 it says: “If people are causing divisions among you give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. For people like that have turned away from the truth and their own sins condemn them.”

So what can we do when we see an argument brewing in the church? In early church times, people on the outside noted how much the people within a congregation loved one another. In modern times, however, it could be said how much the people in the congregation compete with one another. Why is it sometimes so difficult for God’s people to get along? The selfishness within us wants to please ourselves, even if it hurts somebody else. If we’re not careful, even our prayers can become selfish.

As well as selfishness, worldliness and pride can be used by Satan to defeat us. Are we laughing when we should be weeping over our sins? Who are we resisting? The devil or the Lord? A whole new generation of Christians has grown up believing that it's possible to 'accept' Christ without forsaking the world. We can't have a foot in both places. One writer explained it so well: "It is right for the church to be in the world; it is wrong for the world to be in the church. A boat in the water is good; for that's what boats are for. However, water inside the boat causes it to sink."

The Lord Jesus became the peacemaker between God and human beings. We people have little idea of just how offensive sin is to our holy God. Sin is an insult to His holiness and cannot be lightly tossed aside and ignored. Something had to be done to remove His anger at sin and make it possible for God to demonstrate His love and mercy. Through the shedding of Christ's blood at Calvary, God Himself took the initiative of removing His own anger against all repentant sinners.

Some people think it's an easy and quick way to become a Christian by simply praying a prayer to God. It's considered a done deal and the person goes on living their life just as they used to. What did the Lord Jesus say? In Luke's Gospel, Chapter 10, a teacher of the Law tried to trap Him with a question, "What must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus asked him what the Scriptures said. The man quoted from Deuteronomy, Chapter 6: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind;" and "Love your neighbour as you love yourself."

From the 15<sup>th</sup> Century to the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Christian people devoted themselves to gain a good understanding of the Bible. Then history recorded a number of revivals in different parts of the world. The emphasis became more of an emotional response to Christ than a reasoned meditation on the Bible. From then on, it's been less and less emphasis on a Christian devoting his mind to God in an intellectual way. Christian people talk about their experiences but omit quoting words of Scripture to support their experience.

The Apostle Paul seemed to enter the Christian life dramatically but his disciple Timothy didn't seem to have a similar experience. Some Christians don't have a dramatic conversion but they develop a deeper awareness of the presence of God over time. Are the Timothy-type conversions to be looked down upon as less reliable? People come to Christ in many different ways and mature believers need to encourage them all.

James, Chapter 4 says: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded, (for your loyalty is divided between God and the world).... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up." If we don't seek after God by studying what He says in the Bible, we can't expect to see much spiritual growth in our lives.

In 1 Peter, Chapter 3, it says: "Have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honour him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you, but do it with gentleness and respect." If this is done from experiences with thought-provoking passages from the Word of God, disagreements can become less a disunity factor and thus a stepping stone to learning more.

Christianity is being so dumbed down in many churches that thinkers can be considered troublemakers. When a church has some major problem, the leaders then turn to psychology or other worldly practices rather than finding their answers in the Bible. This is how churches get into false doctrine. The people in the congregation don't know their Bible well enough to speak the right words for the occasion.

Just getting people to pray the sinner's prayer to God is not enough to become a Christian. The person must be convinced that God has the key to their problems and be convicted that their old ways of living are leading them into eternal death. This attitude comes from a thorough study of the Scriptures.

Have you ever given over control of your life to the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and king yet? If you haven't, speak with some Bible teacher and ask all the questions you want answers for. If you already are a Christian and think your spiritual growth is not satisfactory, get help with your Bible teaching. The disciples of Jesus spent three years with Him learning day-by-day from their Master.



Here's a verse of Scripture to remember and put into daily practice:  
Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 17: "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard  
for good things in the sight of all men."

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

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