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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:
A2004 ~ The Ten Lepers.

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

A volunteer lady was given the job of planting trees in memory of loved ones in a park in America. The trees were donated by family members in remembrance of their relatives.

The lady took a friend with her when she went to plant her 24th tree. While they were at work, a woman approached them. "Remember the tree you planted for me the other day?" she asked. The volunteer lady nodded. "You planted it too close to the road. It needs to be moved." Then she turned and left.

She may not have intended to be rude or sound ungrateful. But the volunteer lady admitted that of the 23 trees that she had already planted, only two people had remembered to say, "Thank you."

Today's *Bible Adventure* is about being thankful for the things others do for us and taking the trouble to tell them so.

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

This healing of the ten lepers is recorded in Luke, Chapter 17, as Jesus passed through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem.

Lepers had a degree of hopelessness greater than most other people in their society.

Just as the Lord Jesus made a difference in these lepers' lives, He can make a difference in ours too. When the trials of life seem tough and unsolvable, there's still hope in God. In these times, we think of Proverbs, Chapter 10, where it says: "The hopes of the godly result in happiness."

No matter how hopeless things seem here on earth, in Jesus we have ultimate eternal hope. Those who know the Lord Jesus personally as their Lord and Saviour understand just how much their future life will be a joyful one in heaven. There's so much more living to do beyond the grave.

The Lord Jesus told the ten men to go to the priests to be checked for healing and cleanliness, which would enable them to be accepted back into Jewish society. When the ten lepers set out for the priests, they were still lepers but they obeyed Jesus' instructions anyway.

How important is being obedient to the Lord Jesus for a disciple of His these days? When a person believes in Jesus and decides to follow Him, the new believer is increasingly motivated to obey God out of love for Him.

Obedience is also motivated by faith in believing who Jesus says He is, but obedience itself is not the way Jesus said people would get to heaven; only faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour will do this. Obedience is the result of faith, not the road to eternal life.

In 1976, Israeli commandos made a daring raid on an airport in Uganda to free 103 Jewish hostages. They rushed into the airport building and shouted in their native language to lie down on the floor. All the Jewish people knew what they said and almost all obeyed the command. The kidnappers didn't know what was said and remained upright until they were shot by the commandos.

The raid would have been completely successful if two of the hostages hadn't hesitated and remained standing, probably to see what was going on. They lost their lives for disobedience. Another man who was lying down jumped to his feet to see what was going on. He died too. If those three had obeyed the commandos' shouts, they too would have been freed like the rest of the captives.

Salvation from sin is open to all people everywhere, but we must heed Jesus Christ's command to repent and to make Him our Lord. We must worship and obey Him above all else. When you genuinely believe that Jesus died on a cross to take away your sin, ask for His forgiveness, that He will forget it forever.

In believing that Jesus is God's son and God's gift of love to save people from their sinful state inside, God will empower you to trust and obey Him by His own indwelling Holy Spirit. The Spirit will live and work in you and help you to follow God's ways and values.

But, if we cling to our self-centredness we will ultimately perish with the judgment meant for Satan, God's Enemy. Although it's never too late to stop living a life of disobedience to God, our eternal destination is the most important business we have to consider in this life. Putting off consideration of these things may mean that an unexpected illness or accident may bring life to a close without an opportunity to finalize such matters. Now is the best time to decide to live for Jesus!

In John, Chapter 14, Jesus said: "If you love me, obey my commandments."

Following the lessons you read in the Bible will set you free from the habits of slavery to sin. You can turn away from all these self-motivated pleasures dishonouring to the Lord and live an obedient life for Him, enjoying all His wonderful blessings.

Obedying God is the only way to stay in fellowship with Him. God's call for your obedience is based on His own commitment to your wellbeing. Since Jesus is the Creator of life, He knows how life is supposed to work. Obedience demonstrates your willingness to follow through on what God says, and trust that God's way is best for you and your desire to have a close relationship with Him.

Is there a difference between obedience and performance then? It's important to understand that while obedience leads to life, performance leads to death.

Here are some opposites worthy of remembering:

Obedience is seeking God with your whole heart. Performance is having a quiet time because you feel guilty if you don't.

Obedience is finding ways to let the Word of God dwell in you richly. Performance is quickly scanning a passage so you can check it off your Bible reading plan or daily list of tasks to do.

Obedience is doing your best. Performance is wanting to be the best.

Obedience springs from the fear of God. Performance springs from fear of failure.

These sayings sort out our motives for why we do things. If we're doing things with the wrong motives of performance, pray to God and ask for His forgiveness. Ask Him to help to get you out of those situations where you are trapped into performance. And be prepared to repent and change your ways as the Holy Spirit shows you that your affections are to be for Christ and not yourself.

As the ten lepers travelled along the road, they discovered that they had been healed. What a wonderful thing! How pleased they were with this result! The only foreigner, a Samaritan among them, went back to the Lord Jesus to say, "Thank you!" for being healed. The Samaritan fell down on his face at Jesus' feet, praising God and giving thanks. When Jesus asked where the other nine Jewish men were, it implied that the others were not truly grateful for their blessed healing.

Jesus told the Samaritan to get up and go home, as his faith had made him well in both body and soul. Where the other nine had received bodily healing, the Samaritan had also received spiritual healing. If we don't come to God and thank Him for the blessings we have received in this life, we can't expect to receive any of His blessings in the life to come. God always wants us to have a thankful heart.

There are many things in this life we simply take for granted. An elderly pastor was invited to a lunch attended by Christian people. When it came time for thanks to be said for the food, the speaker thanked God for all the gifts received from Him, including the food and water. The elderly pastor was so taken by the fact that he'd never given thanks for water before, that he didn't listen to the rest of the prayer.

What are we really thankful for? Do you realise that God tells us that we are to be thankful for everything, as is said in 1 Thessalonians, Chapter 5? Who has given thanks for the difficulties through which the world is passing? Or the financial uncertainty? Or the rise in persecution of Christians? Some people will say that these things bring misery and hardship to many people and that they are not a subject for thanksgiving. They suggest that if we are thankful for them, we show our desire for them to continue.

Both of these conclusions are wrong. If these difficulties reach us personally, we should take the same attitude that the Holy Spirit taught Paul when he was asking the Lord to remove his "thorn in the flesh" in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 12: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak."

Since we know that all things work together for the good of those who love Jesus, we must take the attitude of thankfulness for anything that the Lord sends us. If the difficulties and misery of the world don't reach us personally, we can be thankful to see the prophecies in Scripture now being fulfilled. When the violent storms of judgment are past, we will know that the eternal calm of victory will follow for all those who love Him. This is God's ultimate plan for His people!

When we see others suffering, we are led by God's Spirit to have compassion and tenderness towards them, and we can help them wherever we can. God is the author of all our blessings and He desires, appreciates and even seeks our praise and thanksgiving. When trials and circumstances test us, we are to thank God for those too, as He never makes a mistake. He allows only those things into the life of His children that are for our profit and His glory.

The other side of thankfulness, however, is ingratitude or a failure to thank God, which is a great step away from Him. People are able to look up and see the glories of the universe. This should turn their hearts toward God, as the heavens declare His power and infinite greatness. This knowledge alone takes away every excuse people say on Judgment Day as to why they didn't thank God for all His care and blessings.

When we discover just how much love God has for us, we're grateful and our inner self often resounds with thanks to God. This thankfulness flows into joy, and God is the source of all our joy. Let us keep an attitude of gratefulness and be filled with joy.

In Psalms, Chapter 145, verses 2 and 3, the psalmist David wrote: "Every day I will thank you; I will praise you forever and ever. The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; his greatness is beyond understanding."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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