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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A2012 ~ Jesus Heals a Blind Man.

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

Today's *Bible Adventure* starts by talking about competition. People often compete with one another to be the top person in a group. Competition is a powerful stimulant that can produce both positive and negative results. Rivalry with others can give a person a goal in life to focus on. Yet, each person can strive to do his or her personal best with also a spirit of sharing and cooperation.

Those with a "must win at all costs" attitude are soon tempted to tell lies, cheat in a game of sport or proudly boast themselves better than others. Competing in sport brings a risk of being injured or feeling bitter when losing to a better competitor. Highly competitive people need to learn that team sports are a team effort and in this type of game, no one can win all by themselves.

Competition is not found just among individuals, sporting teams or businesses. Even nations compete with one another for dominance in their region. History shows that one particular nation can be top but then declines over the years while another rises to dominance.

For those who follow Christ in the race of life, there are rules to be followed. In 2 Timothy, Chapter 4, the Apostle Paul said of his life in Christ, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness." The strange part about running in Christ's plan for your life is that there are no other competitors. We don't have to compare ourselves with other Christians, but only with the Lord Jesus Himself.

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

Following the raising of Lazarus, Jesus predicted to His disciples for a third time how He would die. Few people know how and when they are going to die, even when they have some deadly disease. A missionary's wife had tramped through jungle and up and down mountains many times and God had protected her along the way. In the last stages of her life, she came to realise she was going to die of kidney failure. This surprised her after all the adventures that she had done when she was younger.

When the disciples saw Lazarus come out of the grave in his grave clothes, their thoughts didn't focus for very long on what life there was after death. The things Jesus was saying to them seemed to slip from their minds and be forgotten until much later, and only remembered once Jesus Himself had risen again. The disciples may have hoped that Jesus' death wasn't going to happen. In fact, their hopes may have been pinned on Jesus gaining victory over the Jewish rulers and Him winning the kingship of Israel from the Roman overlords.

The Bible says that one day, the Lord Jesus will come back to rule the world as the King of kings from Jerusalem! But His first time here on earth was as a suffering Servant. The shedding of Jesus' innocent lifeblood became the final sacrifice for the sin of all human beings. God's justice was satisfied once and for all for any person who asks Jesus to wipe away their sins, cleanse their hearts and give them eternal life in heaven. People who don't do this, either through neglect, ignorance or refusal, will have to pay the price for their own sins by suffering in the eternal pit of torment that we call hell.

When in Mark, Chapter 10, Peter compared himself and the other disciples to the rich young ruler, he said that all the disciples had left everything to follow Jesus, which was far more than what the rich young ruler was prepared to do. Peter asked Jesus what would be the disciples' reward for giving up everything for Jesus.

The Lord Jesus then gave the disciples a promise to all who leave home, family and livelihood for His sake: they will lose nothing. In time, they will gain 100 times as much as what they gave up to follow Jesus. They also had to expect persecution but would receive eternal life at the end of the age. Although life is full of troubles and hardships at times, Christians need to rest in the knowledge that knowing Jesus intimately as Lord, Saviour and Master should be the greatest reward anyone could ask for.

In the reality of life we desire that the tough times be past and gone. The Bible says that in whatever we face, God's grace is sufficient for us and that if we seek His face, He will provide a way through the difficulties. As a result, where God leads us to be patient for His help in our trials, we can rejoice in our salvation and continually give Jesus our burdens to bear. The disciples had to become suffering servants, just like their Master, before they would be raised to importance in Jesus' future kingdom, where Jesus will rule as King.

The disciples wanted to be first or 'great'. Jesus taught them not to seek to be first. They began to bargain with God. We must never think that if we have done something good for God we then earn the right for God to reward us. Leave God to give us what He wills and do not seek honours or praise from any person here on earth. God will lift up the humble and is the One who puts down the proud. God will put every person in the rightful place that has been prepared for them.

The disciples didn't seem to learn this lesson very well. Only four verses later, the brothers James and John asked Jesus to give them the highest places in His kingdom – on thrones on both His right and left sides. They may have been jealous of Peter or desired to receive the best that was possible from being a dedicated follower of Jesus. Yet Jesus asked these two disciples if they could suffer and die with Him. Although they replied confidently that they could, Jesus told them that they would both suffer for Him at a later time.

Jesus also said that it wasn't His right to give out the places in His coming kingdom but rather, it was God His Father's; and God will show no favouritism. God will give each Christian a place in heaven according to our faith and love for Him. Naturally, the other 10 disciples were angry when they heard James and John's request. They were no better than James and John but probably felt excluded from being considered for the most honourable spots in Jesus' kingdom.

Jesus reminded the disciples that they were not to live in a godless or 'worldly' way. In the world, people strive to become first and by doing so, gain power over other people for all sorts of advantages. Jesus warned the disciples that they mustn't have this mindset. If they really desired to be a leader, then they had to become a servant of all. Jesus was saying that before God, it's wrong for anyone to desire church leadership for personal benefit or to have control, honour or influence over others.

Having sorted out the competitive nature among His disciples, the Lord Jesus went on to explain why He had come to earth. He was the world's greatest leader, yet He came to serve people, not gain a group of servants to take care of His own needs and desires. And greater than His role as a Servant, Jesus came to give His life for everyone. Service to God may be good but it isn't enough. We need saving from the penalty of our sins and it's Jesus who is the Saviour of all those who believe in Him. Why? The Apostle Paul said in Acts, Chapter 4 that salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

As Jesus and His disciples travelled toward Jerusalem, they came to Jericho, 18 miles northeast of Jerusalem. There, according to the Gospel of Matthew in Chapter 20, Jesus healed two blind men. In Mark, Chapter 10 and Luke, Chapter 18, however, it only mentions one blind man called Bartimaeus.

This blind man tried to support himself by sitting at the city gates and calling out for donations from anyone who walked by. Some people passing through the gates would throw a coin into his container. Even gifts towards others like that will one day be rewarded by the Lord.

Although blind, Bartimaeus believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of David. He also believed that Jesus could heal him. So he shouted out for Jesus to have mercy on him. Once taken to Jesus, Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted from Jesus. Jesus said this so the crowd around them would know that Bartimaeus wanted his sight and not money. This blind man was healed through faith in Jesus Christ.

What is faith? Faith is one of the commonest things we experience in life. It's bound up in almost everything we do. If we fail to have faith in others, it is impossible to please them or ourselves. In the same way Hebrews, Chapter 11, says: "No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and He rewards those who seek him."

Do we love and trust Jesus, God's Son, as the way to being right and personal with God? On the answer to that question hang the issues of life and death, heaven and hell. Take heed to seek and find Jesus in this life. For in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36, it says: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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