

Sunday Players

Drama Resources

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THE CHAINS THAT BIND

Written by Michelle Taylor

A skit performed by the Sunday Players, a ministry of Pine Castle United Methodist Church Topic: The chains of the flesh (sin) prevent us from following and living out the wonderful plan that God has for our life. Get rid of those chains that weigh us down. Confess and repent.

CAST:

a man weighed down with unrepentant sin
Jesus

PROPS: numerous metal chains, altar rail

LENGTH: 3-4 minutes

(The scene opens with a man kneeling at an altar rail placed onstage, facing the audience. He is encumbered with metal chains placed around his shoulders and his wrists. Standing behind him is Jesus, with his arms stretched out toward the man, watching and listening as the man prays in earnest.)

MAN: Here I am Lord. Once again coming to you in prayer and wondering why I bother. You never answer me. You used to. Those were the good ol' days. I would call out to you and you'd answer. Not anymore. Why, I wonder? I live a Godly life. I go to church every Sunday. Well, except on those occasional Sundays when I play a round of golf. But I still keep the Sabbath holy. I never curse when I bogey. So I miss a few worship services. What's the big deal?! I'm still faithful. I'm faithful. What about you Lord? Do you still listen? Do you still care?

Why have you left me? For months I've been praying for that promotion at work. Expecting you to bless me. And now my boss is interviewing someone else for the position. Where's the abundant life you've promised us? Where's the wonderful plan you have for my life? I work hard at my job. (beat) Okay, so I show up late to work sometimes or take an extended lunch. Nothing major. Well, there was that one time I was flirting with my co-worker Nancy. But it was just a little flirtation. You know I'd never leave my wife. For the most part, I live a pretty holy life. Lord, you know me. You know the desires of my heart. You know I want to serve you and follow you. (growing frustration) But how can I follow you if I can't even reach you!!! (tries to reach out but is hindered by the "unseen" chains. pause)

(Sigh. Speak softly and sincerely) I feel so lost. I feel like I'm wandering around blindly. What is it Lord? What's keeping us apart? You said you'd never leave me or forsake me. I believe that. Please tell me.

(get analytical) Okay, if you haven't left me then what's the problem? If it's not you then that means it must be...it must be...(realization) it must be me! I'm the problem. What am I doing wrong Lord? I know I'm not perfect. I'm human. I sin just like everybody else. (get angry) Do you expect me to be sinless?! (pause with reflect) You expect me to confess my sins and repent. I guess I haven't done

much of that lately. I've been sinning and giving excuses. And the whole time I've blamed you when it was my sin that's weighing me down. My sins have bound me from drawing closer to you. From receiving the blessings I so desperately desire.

(becomes emotional) I'm so ashamed Lord. I've been so angry at you for so long now. Forgive me. Forgive me Lord. Forgive me for not going to church and worshiping you with other believers. Forgive me for robbing my boss and not working my full hours. Forgive me for committing adultery in my heart. Forgive my doubting you and having a lack of faith. (weeping, rests head on kneeling rail. In broken-with-emotion whisper say...) I'm so sorry.

(weeps. Jesus looking on with tenderness, compassionately rests his hand on the man's head. He lifts the chains off of the man's shoulders as He speaks for the first time saying...)

JESUS: My son. My arms aren't too short to save you and my ears aren't too limited to hear you. But your evil acts have separated you from me. Your sins have hidden my face from you. But sin will not have supreme authority over you because you are not under the law, (Jesus then takes the chains and wraps them around His own shoulders) but under grace.

(Blackout. Jesus can lift the man up from the alter, put His arm around him and help him exit offstage)