

Paul and Silas in Prison

Scripture: Acts 16:16-40*

Characters: Slave girl, master, Paul, Silas, Luke, two magistrates, three or four crowd people, two guards, two prisoners, jailor, jailor's wife, two teenagers

Script:

Slave girl and her master are wondering around offering to tell fortunes to people in the crowd. The man has a large bag of money that he adds to as the girl tells fortunes. Paul, Silas, and Luke enter area.

Slave girl starts to follow Paul.

Slave girl: *(as she follows Paul)* "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved!" *(repeats line three times)*

Paul: *(to slave girl)* "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!"

Girl moves in a way to show the spirit has left her.

Master of girl looks angry and he grabs Paul and Silas to take them to the magistrates and crowd of people with them.

Master: *(to the magistrates and crowd)* "These men are Jews and are throwing the city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for Romans to accept or practice!"

Magistrate 1: "Have these men beaten and thrown into prison."

Magistrate 2: "Make sure you guard them carefully!"

Paul and Silas are dragged off by two guards. The students will walk to the jail area where they will find paul and Silas in chains. Two other prisoners are there, also in chains. Paul and Silas are singing hymns (pick a hymn for them to sing).

Loud rumbling is heard and the people and their chains begin to shake. The chain fall off all the prisoners.

Jailor who has been asleep outside the door wakes up and pulls out his sword.

Paul: "Don't harm yourself! We are all here."

Jailor: "Lights. Bring me lights."

A guard brings him a "torch" and he runs to where the prisoners are. He falls before Paul and Silas.

Jailor: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Silas: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household."

Paul and Silas talk quietly with the jailor. Guards leave and return with jailor's wife and two teenagers.

Jailor: "I will wash your wounds, then I and my family wish to be baptized, we will take you to our house for a meal."

The jailor, Paul, and Silas exit.

A minute or so later, they all return and the lights are brought up in the room. Two men are sent into the room.

Man 1: "The magistrates say to release Paul and Silas immediately."

Jailor: *(to Paul and Silas)* "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace."

Paul: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens and threw us into prison. And now they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out."

The two men leave and return with the magistrates who look upset and escort Paul and Silas out of jail while asking them to please leave the city.

*Script adapted from scripture in Nlrv Zondervan Bible