

Paul & Silas in Prison (Acts 16: 16-40)

Picture of prison bars up on the screen, sound effect of doors clanging shut and chains jangling.

Jailor (wearing a sword) leads Paul and Silas onto stage, who have "chains" wrapped round their wrists, gets them to sit down, and puts "stocks" on their ankles. There is another prisoner in the cell next to theirs, who has his hands "chained" together as well. Jailor exits.

Prisoner: *(addressing Paul & Silas)* What are you in here for?

Paul: It's a trumped up charge! We're in here for public disorder and trying to stir people up against Roman ways, but really it's because they don't like us preaching about Jesus.

Prisoner: Ooh. What are you going to do now?

Silas: Pray

Paul looks like he's praying while Silas and Prisoner continue to talk

Prisoner: Yes, being in here moves everyone to prayer...

Silas: And then sing

Prisoner: Sing? I sing sometimes when I'm in here – woke up this morning/with the blues in my face/saw I was in jail/I don't like this place!

Silas: Not THAT type of singing. This situation doesn't call for the blues, it calls for praise

Prisoner: You're going to try to praise the jailor in song to get him to be kind to you? I think you'd do better with a more traditional bribe

Paul: We're not going to praise the jailor in song, we're not in Chicago the musical! We're going to sing praises to the Lord

Prisoner: Er, why?

Paul: Because our Lord is worthy of praise

Prisoner: Your Lord has landed you in jail

Silas: Firstly, God didn't put us in jail, people did. Secondly, God is always worthy of praise. And thirdly, God knew this was going to happen to us and who knows how he can use this situation to bring some good about somewhere down the line?

Paul and Silas start singing:

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the son;

And give him the glory, great things he hath done!

To God be the glory! Great things he hath done!

So loved he the world that he gave us his son,

Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Sound effect of Earthquake, now a picture of open prison door up on screen,
Paul and Silas can get out of their chains and stocks.*

Jailor rushes back onto stage, draws sword to kill himself

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

Jailor: What's going on? What kind of God can do this?

Paul: Jesus can do this

Jailor: What do I have to do to be saved?

Silas: If you and your family believe in Jesus, repent of your sins and invite Jesus to be Lord of your life, it's as simple as that

Jailor: I do! Please come and see my family and tell them how to be saved

Paul: We will

Prisoner: Can I come too?

Silas: Yes you can!