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“Jail Cell Freedom”

by
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What When a prisoner is told he is free, he chooses to stay in his cell a little longer rather than leave. This skit reminds us that Christ didn't set us free so we could remain in our chains.

Themes: Freedom, Sin, Salvation, Captive, New Year, Back to School

Who Attorney
Prisoner

When Present

Wear (Props) Costumes are optional but would greatly help in conveying the message.
Prisoner– should be in a jumpsuit (scrubs or striped pjs would work well too)
Attorney– should be in a suit and tie.
Small table
Chair
Coffee mug
Book

Why Galatians 5:1, Romans 8

How The audience does not *see* the cell. The stage should simply be bare except for the table, with the coffee mug on it, and the chair.
The first part of the scene should be intense and fast; the actors' lines should be said almost on top of each other. When the Prisoner offers the Attorney some tea, the scene should abruptly and noticeably slow down.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Center Stage, Prisoner sits in a chair, reading. Beside him is a small table with a coffee mug on it.

Attorney enters, running down the center aisle.

Attorney: *(out of breath)* You're free.

The Prisoner puts his book down on the table and stands up.

Prisoner: What?

Attorney: Free!

Prisoner: *(in disbelief)* What?!

Attorney: You're free to go! Free to leave this place! This prison cell, these chains. You're free to go.

Prisoner: Really? How? What—what happened?

Attorney: The trial is over. The judge didn't condemn you. He declared you innocent.

Prisoner: I can't believe this.

Attorney: I know.

Prisoner: It's been so long. I've been here in this jail cell so long.

Attorney: Not anymore. You're good to go.

Prisoner: *(enthusiastically shaking the Attorney's hand)* Thank you. Thank you. I really appreciate all you've done.

Attorney: Absolutely. Let's go.

Prisoner: Where?

Attorney: Anywhere you want.

Prisoner: I've just made some tea.

Attorney: What?

Prisoner: Want some?

Attorney, no longer out of breath, takes a minute to look around the stage.

Attorney: What happen to this cell? *(Skeptically)* It looks like you've moved in here.

Prisoner: Well, just a few small comforts from home.

Attorney: But this isn't a home. This is—

Prisoner: It's a prison.

Attorney: Right. *(Turning to SR, referring to something offstage)* You hung pictures?

Prisoner: *(looking SR)* It's crooked isn't? I can't *(putting his thumb out in front of him, and slightly moving his head)* ...I just can't seem to get it right. *(Giving up)* Maybe I'll have the warden help me out when he stops by.

Attorney: I don't think you heard me right.

Prisoner: I did. I did. I'm free. I'm free! I can't believe it.

Attorney: You don't have to stay here anymore.

Prisoner: I know.

Prisoner sits.

Prisoner: This chair reclines. Want to try it?

Attorney: No.

Prisoner: Are you sure you don't want some tea?

Attorney: No. *(Kneeling next to the chair, almost pleading with the Prisoner)* You don't understand. This is a new season. A new year. A new day. You can start over. You don't have to stay here.

Prisoner: A new season. I can't even— I've dreamed of this day. Amazing. Thank you.

Prisoner sips his tea, places it back on the table. He then adjusts himself in his chair, as if he is about to take a nap.

Attorney: What are you doing?

Prisoner: What do you mean?

Attorney: Aren't you going to leave? You can leave. You don't have to stay.

Prisoner: I know. It's just that I made tea, and I just got this chair.

Attorney: This is a jail cell. You have the chance to get out of here.

Prisoner: I know.

Attorney: There's more. Outside is freedom.

Prisoner: I know.

Pause.

Prisoner: I will.

Pause.

Prisoner yawns.

Prisoner: Soon.

Pause.

Prisoner: I'm just really comfortable at the moment. I'm going to take a short nap and then I'll leave.

Prisoner yawns.

Prisoner: Thank you. Thank you for setting me free.

Attorney: But—

Prisoner snores.

Attorney: *(to himself)* You're free.

Attorney shakes his head and leaves.

Lights down.