

## THE CHAINS THAT BIND

by Barbara Nelson

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A woman who refuses to forgive finds herself chained to her offender, and thus hinders her own witness before others.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The demeanor of both the 1st and 2nd WOMAN should make it clear that neither is particularly happy with the situation.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3

**TOPIC:** Forgiveness

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 5:21-26, 6:14-15

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

1st WOMAN

2nd WOMAN

3rd WOMAN

**PROPS:** A chain

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Three wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Unspecified

**Drama Ministry**

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

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*At lights up, the 1st WOMAN enters followed by the 2nd WOMAN who is chained to her. The 1st WOMAN's movement is obviously hampered by the 2nd WOMAN being shackled to her.*

*1st WOMAN struggles to adjust the chains so that she can sit. The 2nd WOMAN stands close beside her. The 1st WOMAN flashes the 2nd WOMAN an irritated glare as she settles herself in to pray.*

**1st WOMAN:** *(Puts her hands together to pray and sighs before starting)* Heavenly Father, I come before you today in the name of Jesus and . . .

*The 2nd WOMAN folds her arms and sighs loudly. The 1st WOMAN opens her eyes and glares at the 2nd WOMAN.*

**1st WOMAN:** Do you mind? I'm trying to pray.

**2nd WOMAN:** *(Insincerely)* Oh. Don't let me interrupt you. Please, go right ahead.

*1st WOMAN settles back into "prayer mode."*

**1st WOMAN:** Heavenly Father, I come before you today in the name of Jesus and I ask you to forgive me for where I have fallen short . . .

**2nd WOMAN:** Ha!

**1st WOMAN:** *(Glaring at the 2nd WOMAN)* What is your problem?

**2nd WOMAN:** *(Nonchalantly)* Nothing. It's nothing.

*1st WOMAN prepares to start praying again.*

I just find it really ironic that you're asking God for forgiveness with me standing here, don't you?

**1st WOMAN:** *(Jumps up)* You wouldn't be standing there if you weren't such a no good, backstabbing traitor!

**2nd WOMAN:** Oh, give it a rest! That was two years ago!

**1st WOMAN:** Whether it was two years ago or two days ago, that doesn't change what you did!

**2nd WOMAN:** Fine! Fine! Just go back to your praying and act like I'm not even here!

**1st WOMAN:** No, you've blown that, thank you very much. Now I don't even feel like praying.