



Paul and Silas in Prison

Acts 16:16-40

Minutes after Captain Yago docked the Skylab Omega on his service barge, he was back in the engine room with his tools. He removed the gasket and untwisted the modulator wiring.

"Kong-a-loosh!" Nofutu greeted, sliding through the trap door. "I want to help you, too! Where is the Commander Cosmos?"

"I told him and his crew to take leave on Planet Philippi," Yago explained flatly without looking up. "That way, I can work without being interrupted with all of this talk of Bibles and apostles and hallelujah, praise the Jesus."

Nofutu jumped up, hitting his head on the ceiling. "Hallelujah, praise Jesus! Can I help?"

"You can hand me tools." Yago pointed to the heavy bag of tools lying next to his feet.

Nofutu lifted the tool bag. "I've got a better idea! I can hand you tools! And sing to you!"

Yago shook his head. "How about just the tools!"

"Jesus loves me this I know..." Nofutu began singing.

"Screwdriver," Yago requested.

"For the Bible tells me so..." Nofutu placed the screwdriver in his hand.

"Wrench," Yago demanded.

"Little ones to Him belong..." Nofutu continued singing handing Yago the wrench.

"Tape," Yago commanded followed by a large sigh.

Nofutu sang louder. "They are weak, but He is strong! Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves meeeeeee!" While twirling and dancing, he handed the tape to Yago.

Yago pressed a large piece of tape onto Nofutu's mouth. "That's one problem fixed!"

"Nofutu pulled the tape away and laughed. "Oh you, you are a funky, junky, joker monkey!"

"Just don't sing that song anymore!" Yago demanded.

"Okay..." Nofutu agreed, then promptly began singing another song. "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty there's nothing My God cannot do!"

Yago rolled his eyes. "Maybe, your God can loosen this fitting because it is too tight for me. I'll tell you what, you sing to your God and I will go get some grease to loosen the fitting. And whatever you do, don't touch anything!"

"Okie, dokie, karaoke!" Nofutu waved his hands as Yago disappeared onto the deck above. "Poor Captain Yago; he is so uptight. I know what I will do! I will help him by taking apart his fitting." He found the hole in the engine, reached inside, and began to sing. Suddenly, he stopped singing and yelled out, "Uh-oh! I think my arm is stuck! Help! Help! Help me Jesus!"

Yago dropped through the trap door arms folded. "Nofutu! Did you get yourself stuck?"

Nofutu could not turn around to see who was behind him. "Yes. Is that you Jesus?"

"No, it is I, Yago. I told you not to touch anything but did you listen?" Yago demanded.

"Nope!" Nofutu said with a giggle.

"At least you're honest," Yago muttered. "I suppose you expect me to help you."

Nofutu grinned and began to sing a new song as Yago tried to pull his arm out.

"Must you keep singing?!" Yago growled and stood up.

Nofutu stopped. "I can't help it. I love to sing and praise. I am so filled with joy from knowing Jesus. That is why I sing no matter what," Nofutu explained. "Paul and Silas sang even when they were in prison."

"And who are Paul and Silas?" Yago asked rolling his eyes.

"Computer," Nofutu called out, "Will you please show Acts 16:16?"

Yago read the verses aloud. "The Bible says that Paul and Silas were stripped and beaten, had their feet put in stocks and were thrown in a jail cell."

"Yes. Then, in the middle of the night, they prayed and sang to God," Nofutu explained.

Yago shook his head. "Christians, you praise your God at the craziest times."

"That's right. And God does miracles at the craziest times! God caused an earthquake that shook open the doors and everybody's chains fell off!" Nofutu exclaimed.

"I don't believe that God could do such a thing," Yago scoffed.

Suddenly, a low rumbling noise echoed through the room then turned to violent shaking. Yago grabbed the ladder and held on tight. When the shaking stopped, he looked up to realize that the shaking had loosened Nofutu's arm. He was free!

Nofutu danced. "Ha-ha! God has sent another earthquake to set me free!"

"That was no earthquake," Yago denied. "That was probably just the thruster engines."

"Did you start the engines?" Nofutu asked.

"No..." Yago hesitated. "I'm sure there is a good explanation for why the ship shook."

Nofutu grinned. "Yes. God loves me just like He loved Paul and Silas and the jailer."

"The jailer? What jailer?" Yago asked.

"There was a jailer in charge of the prison. When it fell apart, he was going to kill himself because he knew that he would be in trouble for letting the prisoners escape. But Paul said, 'Don't harm yourself! We are all here!'" Nofutu explained.

"What did the jailer say?" Yago snarled.

"He fell before them and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'" Nofutu answered.

"He wanted to be saved? Maybe the earthquake scared him," Yago suggested.

"Or maybe he was touched by all the beautiful singing!" Nofutu started to sing.

Yago covered his ears. "Don't sing! Just tell me what they said!"

Nofutu pointed at the screen and read, "They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'"

Yago was shocked. "They invited the man who put them in prison to believe in Jesus?"

"That's how it is when you love Jesus. You want to tell people about Him and praise Him everywhere, every day! That is why they could sing His praises even in prison because they knew that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever!" Nofutu shouted triumphantly smiling at his friend. Yago managed a small smile in return and turned his attention back to fixing the ship.