



IN THE CLINK

One day I was driving along one of the county highways in Langlade County (north-central Wisconsin) with a homemade go-cart. We had run up and down that road many times that summer when the days farming chores were done. Well, this day, as I was driving along going as fast as that thing would go, who do I meet but the Sheriff. He was notorious for being a nonsense guy. Sure enough he pulled me over.

He had me drive the go-cart back to where I was working as a farmhand, placed me in the back seat of his squad car and off to the country jail we went. The go-cart didn't have a license and neither did the driver! He locked me up and I was to stay there until someone would bail me out. The fine was \$18.75 and in 1959 that was more than any member of my family had. The owner's stepson came to my rescue.

Let me tell you that being behind bars and not knowing just when I would be released at age 17 was frightening to say the least.

I have been reading some interesting articles from Time of Grace regarding prison ministry and the work that is being done in all parts of the United States. Some of the respondents to his articles are on death row and there are some that are in for several years. Many of the writers hunger for God's Word; they thirst for a word from Him. There have been a few confirmations and baptisms right in prison, but can you imagine what it must be like to have all of this time on their hands and really no hope for anything very positive in this life.

Having had a very small taste of being behind bars, I still can't imagine what it is like for the long run. I have watched the movie "The Shackshaw Redemption" several times and that portrays a life-style that rattles me to the core every time I see it. The horrible sin that takes place!

As a child of God we all have a freedom, whether in the clink or on the outside that compares with absolutely nothing you can think of, things like being able to enter His throne room with our prayers of thanks, praise and forgiveness. To know that there all of our prayers are answered. To feel His love when we are lonely and knowing this love as we have read about such things in scripture or sing of His love in church. Hear the promises He makes to all who love Him. To have a love from Him that is unconditional, no strings attached anything we can or have to do to earn this love, freely given.

With that kind of love available to us, why would we want to be locked away in a prison of our own making? We find ourselves in the dark and the bars we create because of our sin, will separate us from the love of Christ that is real. It's our own doing and there is no one else to blame for our rebellion. Just think about it, you can break out of the prison you are in by just reading what He has to share with you in His word and through participation in the services that are freely offered to you at David's Star. We welcome you with open arms, full of all of the love that comes through us to you from our Savior, by the Holy Spirit.

There was one innocent man crucified and a guilty man, Barabbas, was set free. Your freedom to spend eternity in Heaven will come only through Jesus. Come join us.

Luke 23:13-19. Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

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