



Written by  
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## “Chains of War”

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:5

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”*

**Dramatic Category:** Skermon (*This is also a "Metaphor Skit."*)

**Topic:** An unforgiving spirit causes misery.

**Performance Time:** 5 minutes

**Number of Players:** 5 players (*3 men, 2 women*)

**Objective:**

This skit presents a blatant visual representation of the result of an unforgiving spirit. Estranged relationships “chain” us up and prevent us from moving freely through our lives.

**Synopsis:**

In this skit, Mike, is at war with his brother-in-law over an investment deal that went sour and has resulted in what, he thinks, is an unpaid debt. Four of his friends come by and leave him with some “bad advice,” along with an actual chain that weighs him down. Eventually, he is chained up so much that he can hardly move, with bad advice ringing in his ears.

**Cast:**

Mike: A man who is holding a grudge (*or Michelle if the lead is female*)  
Andi: A friend who advocates having enemies  
Jim: A friend who thinks war is manly  
Linda: A friend who thinks the world is full of idiots  
Ted: A friend who thinks God can’t be bothered

**Props:**

A ball & chain  
A 4-foot long chain  
A padlock with a key,  
2 sections of 3-foot chains

## Script:

### Setting:

Mike is slumped over a table, head in hands. He is obviously depressed. He sighs. Enter Andi.

**Andi:** Hey, Mike. Oh...what's up with you?

**Mike:** I've been had, that's all. Ben really put it to me with that bad investment deal. I'm ruined. He knew it, too. He was setting me up for disaster. I'm gonna' get him back, but good.

**Andi:** Way to go. Don't take it.

**Mike:** I don't care if he's my wife's brother. Family doesn't matter. He's not coming into my house again!

**Andi:** "Look, you're going to go through life making enemies; there's nothing you can do about it. *(She begins to wrap a chain around Mike's neck)* You'll have a list a mile long by the time you die; it's inevitable. A man who has no enemies, is a man who doesn't stand for anything. Be grateful when people hate you; it shows character.

*(Andi leaves Mike with a heavy chain around his neck. Enter Jim)*

**Jim :** So, Mike. Bad day huh? Is it still the Ben thing with that swampland in Florida? Tough break, man. He said you went into that deal with your eyes open, though.

**Mike:** Eyes open, nothing. He's a liar, and I don't care who hears me say it. Can you believe, he wants an apology from me?

**Jim :** Don't back down. It's a sign of weakness. *(he begins putting a ball and chain on Mike's foot.)* This nation was built on war, and war it will be. Don't apologize; you'll never be able to look yourself in the mirror again. Spineless sissies go whining about making amends. Have a warrior's courage, man! Show some self-respect! *(He slaps him on the back)*

*(Jim leaves a ball and chain in addition to Andi's neck chain. Mike squirms uncomfortably. Enter Linda:)*

**Linda:** Hi Mike, how's it going?

**Mike:** Don't ask.

**Linda:** Are you still down about that fight with your brother-in-law?  
Your wife told me about it.

**Mike:** She probably told you that her brother says it's my fault that the deal went sour; I acted too slow. Well, I didn't. He gave me bad information. What a pal.

**Linda:** This is not your fault. *(She begins to put a chain around his arm as she pulls it behind him, then drapes the chain around his neck, like a sling. He's clearly in the wrong here. People with your keen intelligence and uncanny sense of personal ethics are always going to conflict with idiots; it's just the way things go.*

*(She exits, leaving Mike in more chains. Enter Jim:)*

**Ted:** You don't look very good, ol' man. Still the thing with Ben?

**Mike:** Yeh...God knows I'm in the right.

**Ted:** *(He wraps the chain around Mike and encircles him as he gives this speech.)* "Hey, don't bother God with this thing. He's got more important stuff on His plate, like: world hunger, nuclear disarmament, and Greenpeace. This is your problem, and yours alone. Good luck. *(He snaps a padlock onto the chain.)*

*(as Jim exits he says:)*

You're gonna' be just fine. Be tough!

*(The Pastor approaches Mike who sits chained up at the table. He begins his sermon to Mike, later he brings the audience in.)*

### **Sermon:**

#### **Quotes from the "evil comforters" set up each sermon point:**

*(The pastor should hold the "KEY" up as you approach Mike; identify the key as forgiveness and begin unwrapping the chains as each point unfolds, ultimately unlocking the lock as well.)*

#### **Sermon points:**

- 1. Identify your victims, so you know who you have wronged.**  
*(Explain the error in this line from the skit, as you unwrap this chain:)*

"Look, you're going to go through life making enemies; there's nothing you can do about it. You'll have a list a mile long by the time you die; it's inevitable. A man who has no enemies, is a man who doesn't stand for anything. Be grateful when people hate you; it shows character."

**2. Apologize and make amends.**

*(Explain the error in this line from the skit as you unwrap this chain)*

“Don’t back down. It’s a sign of weakness. This nation was built on war, and war it will be. Don’t apologize; you’ll never be able to look yourself in the mirror again. Spineless sissies go whining about making amends. Have a have a warrior’s courage, man! Show some self-respect!”

**3. Evaluate Yourself, and Confess Your Wrongs**

*(Explain the error in this line from the skit as you unwrap this chain)*

“This is not your fault. He’s clearly in the wrong here. People with your keen intelligence and uncanny sense of personal ethics are always going to conflict with idiots; it’s just the way things go.”

**4. “Seek God’s Help”**

*(Explain the error in this line from the skit as you unwrap this chain)*

“Don’t bother God with this thing. He’s got more important stuff on His plate, like: world hunger, nuclear disarmament, and Greenpeace. This is your problem, and yours alone. Good luck.”

**5. Conclude with the challenge to be “peacemakers” who are called the children of God.**

*(Hold up the key again, and remind people that the key to being a peacemaker is having a forgiving spirit and remembering how much we have been forgiven by God.)*