

# Philemon and Onesimus

(Philemon 1-25)

Characters

Narrator (Nar)

Onesimus (one)

Philemon (Phil)

Paul

Nar: A long time ago there were 3 people. Onesimus,

One: That's me!

Nar: Philemon,

Phil: That's me!

Nar: And Paul.

Paul: That's me!

Nar: Philemon got to know Paul, and Paul told him all about Jesus.

Paul: Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sins, and rose from the dead so you could go to heaven!

Phil: You mean he did all that for me?

Paul: Yes, for you. Put your faith in Jesus and you will be saved!

Nar: Philemon put his faith in Jesus and became a Christian. This made Paul very happy, very happy indeed.

Paul: I will pray for you Philemon that God will guide you to always do what is right.

Nar: Philemon had a servant called Onesimus.

One: That's me .... O sorry, we've already done that bit.

Nar: Onesimus did something wrong.

One: Very very wrong.

Nar: and Philemon got angry.

Phil: Grrrrr....

One: He was very angry and I was very scared.

Nar: So Onesimus ran away. He kept running as far as he could.

One: I found a town where I thought no one would know me. I thought I could live secretly, but one day I was walking down the street when I heard ...

Paul: (calling out) Onesimus! Hey Onesimus! What are you doing here?

Nar: It was Paul, Philemon's friend. First of all Onesimus was scared that Paul would tell Philemon where he was, but instead Paul looked after him and, of course, told him all about Jesus.

One: He told me that Jesus loves me, even me, a runaway slave! No one loves a runaway slave, but Paul showed me how much Jesus really loves me.

Nar: And Onesimus became a Christian. But Paul knew that Onesimus would never be happy until something had happened.

Paul: Onesimus, you need to go back to Philemon and say sorry and Philemon needs to forgive you so that you can be Christian brothers and not enemies. Neither of you will be happy until you have put things right.

One: But he will be angry, very angry. I did a terrible thing.

Paul: But are you sorry?

One: I'm very sorry. I really wish I could put things right.

Paul: Then Philemon will forgive you. I trust him to do what Jesus tells us to do, to forgive those who hurt us.

Nar: Onesimus wasn't sure about this, but Paul talked to him and eventually he agreed to go back to Philemon. Paul wrote a letter for him to take:

Paul: Dear Philemon, I am always happy when I think about you and your faith and all you do for others. There is something I need you to do though. I am sending Onesimus back to you. He has become a Christian so he is now your brother. I need you to forgive him and welcome him, not as a slave, but as your brother. If he has cost you any money I will repay it myself. Please forgive him and make peace between you.

Nar: So Onesimus set off with the letter in his hand. He travelled all the way to Philemon's house and nervously knocked on the door. The two men looked at each other.

Phil: Onesimus?

One: (nervously) Philemon.

Nar: Philemon read the letter. He looked at Onesimus standing in the doorway. Then a smile broke out on his face. He held out his arms and the two men embraced. They sat at the table and drank and ate and talked. And God's grace filled the house and each of their hearts.

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