

## MOB RULE

By Rod

*This sketch is based on Acts 17 vv 1-10, Paul's visit to Thessalonica. It is an enacted drama with some key parts, but other actors can be recruited on the day.*

*The two sides of the church are used to represent the opposing parties. One side contains Jason and 'Greek'. Jason is lead spokesperson for that side. The other side contains 'Jew. Jew is spokesperson for that side.*

*Action starts with Paul and Silas at back of church and Jason, Greek and Jew sitting at front on their side of church. At very front of church are 5 City Officials. They each hold a reversible sign. Ideally they could have a hat each to make them look like officials.*

### CAST

**Those in BOLD need to rehearse in advance**

#### **Narrator**

**Paul**

*Has words to say.*

Silas

*Shadows Paul. Can be recruited on the day.*

**Jason**

*Has words to say.*

**Jew**

*Has words to say.*

**Greek**

*Has just two lines to say.*

Women

*All women on Jason's side of church who read from a sign held by Narrator at appropriate moment.*

City Officials

*Ideally 5 needed. Can be recruited on the day. Each needs an appropriate Official's hat.*

### PROPS

- Hats for officials
- Bag of money for Jason
- Sign for Jew side to respond to saying:  
**BOO**
- Sign for Jason's side to respond to saying:  
**WOMEN ONLY: WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS**                      on one side and  
**ALL: WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS**                                      on the other side
- 5 reversible signs for City Officials reading MA CE DO NI A and THESS A LO NI CA

Narrator

Paul and Silas were in a part of Greece called Macedonia.  
[City officials hold up 5 signs: MA CE DO NI A. Paul and Silas enter from back of church up on to stage]  
They decided to visit the capital city – named Thessalonica.  
[City officials turn signs round to show THESS A LO NI CA]  
As he usually did when he went to a new place, Paul went into the synagogue – the building where Jews worship.  
[Paul goes to lectern]

Paul I want to talk to you about the Messiah.

Jason The one mentioned in the Bible?

Paul That's right. Do you realise that the Bible says that the Messiah had to suffer?

Jew What do you mean?

Paul Look at Psalm 22 and Isaiah Chapter 53 for example.

Jason *[Holding Bible]* He's right you know.

Paul But the Bible also says the Messiah will rise from the dead.

Jew Rubbish. Where does it say that?

Paul At the end of Isaiah 53 and in Psalm 16.

Jason He's right again.

Jew So what if it does.

Paul Well, the man called Jesus has done exactly that.

Jason The one the Romans crucified?

Paul Yes, he suffered, died but then rose from the dead. And I have seen him.

Jew A likely story.

Jason *[Coming to front and standing alongside Paul]* Well, I am a Jew and I am convinced. I will follow Jesus.

Greek *[Coming to front and standing alongside Paul]* Well I am a Geek, and I am convinced.

Narrator I think that should be Greek. *[An aside. Shaking head]* If only David Tennant/Olivia Coleman had been available.

Greek Oh sorry. I am a Greek and I am convinced. I will follow Jesus. *[Jason and Greek lead Paul and Silas to their side of church.]*

- Narrator And so did a lot of leading women. *[Narrator holds up sign WOMEN ONLY: WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS for all the women on Jason's side of the church to read.]*
- Women *[Standing]* We will follow Jesus.  
*[Jason and Greek stay at front of congregation on their side.. Paul and Silas go round side to be hidden]*
- Narrator But a lot of the Jews were jealous because so many people had joined Paul and Silas. *[Holds up sign saying; ALL: WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS]*
- All Jason's Side We will follow Jesus.
- Jew Well I think Paul is talking rot.  
*[Narrator holds up sign BOO]*
- Narrator The Jews gathered a group of ruffians and formed an ugly mob.  
*[Jew gathers group around at front of church on their side]*  
The mob rushed to Jason's house to find Paul and Silas.
- Jew Where are Paul and Silas? We want to duff them up.
- Jason They are not here.
- Jew OK. We'll take you two instead. *[They grab Jason and Greek and 'drag' them up on to stage.]*
- Narrator They dragged Jason and some other believers before the City Officials.  
*[Officials put down signs.]*
- Jew *[Speaking from lectern]* The two men, Paul and Silas, who have been causing trouble everywhere have come to our city.*[BOO]*  
And this fellow, Jason, has welcomed them into his house. *[BOO]*  
He has welcomed people who break the laws of the Roman Emperor, because they say there is another king apart from the Emperor; a man called Jesus. *[BOO]*
- Narrator These words threw everyone into an uproar.  
*[Officials and Jew side crowd BOO. Jason side WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS.]*  
Eventually the City Officials made Jason and the others pay to be released.  
*[Jason hands over bag of money to Officials]*  
They then sent them home.  
*[Jason and Greek return to their side of church.]*

Jew *[Returning to his side and taking mob with him.]*  
Huh, they got off lightly if you ask me. Paul and Silas won't be so lucky when we get our hands on them. *[Looks menacingly at Jason. Narrator holds up BOO]*

Narrator Because of the danger that Paul and Silas were in, Jason and the other followers of Jesus thought it would be better if they did not remain in Thessalonica.  
*[Jason and Greek talk to Paul and Silas indicating leaving]*  
And that very night Paul and Silas ended their short stay in Thessalonica to continue their travels in Greece.  
They left behind a young church facing a lot of opposition. *[BOO]*  
But a church who knew what they believed. *[WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS]*

*THE END*