

Passion Play – 2025 Guard 2 Script (12.10.24)

ACT I—Scene 2: Guards at City Gates & Witnessing Mourner

NICODEMUS: I do not believe He has proclaimed Himself as King.

[ANNAS stands & all are quiet.]

ANNAS: His followers do say it, and He doesn't discourage it. Nicodemus, though we've often disagreed, I have always respected you. You have believed in His... miracles; do you believe in Him? Is He your Messiah?

CAIAPHAS: Do none of you know or see the real issue at hand? It's better that One should die for all rather than the whole nation to perish. If we don't act, the Romans will. He must be arrested, apart from His crowd, so we may question Him. You may go.

[PRIESTS disperse.]

CAIAPHAS & ANNAS proceed out of Sanhedrin with GUARDS 1 & 2.]

CAIAPHAS: *(Pausing & turning to GUARD 2)* Let it out that anyone who cooperates in His capture will be rewarded.

Act II—Scene 3: I am the Vine

JESUS: I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Without me, you can do nothing. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you want, and it shall be done for you. If you bear much fruit, you will prove to be my disciples and My Father will be glorified. As the Father has loved me, I have loved you.

This, then, is my command, that you love one another in the same way. There is no greater love than a man laying down his own life for his friends. And, you are my friends...follow this command.

Now, I am going away to Him who sent me, and sorrow fills your hearts because I told you. Nevertheless, it is better for you if I go, then, the Comforter will come to you. He will guide you into all truth.

In a little while, you will not see me. A little while longer and you will see me again. You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices, but your sorrow will be turned to joy.

I've told you these things so you will have peace. In the world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.

Act II—Scene 4: Gather a Crowd

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[PRIEST 2 & SANHEDRIN GUARDS appear from Temple doors and come to steps at center.]

PRIEST 2: (To **GUARD 2**) Go get Malchus. Make sure Caiaphas is informed. We will need to know where to bring Him and how.

Act II—Scene 6: Arrest Scene

[Peter cuts off Malchus's ear] [Malchus screams]

JESUS: Put up your sword!

PETER: But my Lord!

JESUS: All who take up the sword, die by the sword.

PETER: But how are we to protect you?

JESUS: Do you suppose that I could not appeal to my Father who would at once send to my aid more than twelve legions of angels?!

PETER: Then do it Lord! Save yourself and save us!

JESUS: This is the cup my Father has given me. Shall I not drink it?

JOHN: Lord, save yourself!

JESUS: But how shall the Scripture be fulfilled which says, "This must be." If I am the man you want, let these others go!

PRIEST 2: No, hold them all!

MALCHUS: Stop! Release them. (*MALCHUS ties JESUS' hands.*)

PETER: Lord!

JESUS: Peter, this has all happened to fulfill what the Prophets wrote.

GUARD 2: We have orders to arrest you and take you to the high priest. Will you come peacefully?

JESUS: Yes. This is your moment, the hour when darkness reigns.

Act III—Scene 1: Peter's Denial

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ANNAS: Jesus of Nazareth, your disciples openly hail you as King. You don't discourage this; on the contrary, you have publicly defended them. What have you told them in private? Can you explain this "Kingdom of Heaven" You preach?

JESUS: I have spoken openly in the synagogues and Temple courts where all Jews come to be taught. Why are you asking me when you could ask the ones who have heard me?

[GUARD 2 steps up.]

GUARD 2: (Slaps JESUS) Is that the way to answer the high priest!

JESUS: If I am wrong, show the evidence. If not, then why am I punished?

ANNAS: If you won't tell us, we will hear... witnesses!

[ANNAS leaves for a moment.]

PETER: *(As he is leaving)* What have I done!

Act III—Scene 2: Sanhedrin trial

NICODEMUS: *(Stepping up & being recognized)* Is this supposed to be reliable testimony? He said He would 'build another Temple not made with hands,' clearly symbolic, and that was from three years ago! If that was so serious, it should've been addressed then, not now. I've followed this man's ministry for these three years. I believe He's a man of integrity, honoring God Whom He calls His Father. Indeed, God's the Father of us all!

CAIAPHAS: *(Getting an idea from NICODEMUS' last line, silences all and steps up to NICODEMUS)* Honoring God in truth is the heart of our religion. *(Turning to JESUS)* Do you have anything to say concerning what has been...witnessed?

CAIAPHAS: *(Looking at NICODEMUS)* Then, in the Name of Almighty God, *(Turning to Jesus)* I place you under oath. Are You the Christ, the Son of God?

JESUS: I AM! And you will see the Son of Man seated on the right hand of God and coming with the clouds of heaven.

ANNAS: Blasphemy! *(and more commotion among the priests)*

PRIEST 1: He has claimed to be God!

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CAIAPHAS: *(To GUARD 2)* Take Him to Pilate, then go and gather a crowd, our crowd, and have them there at daybreak.

JOSEPH: A time for prayer, my friend?

NICODEMUS: Joseph, a time for miracles.

Act III—Scene 7a: Carry the cross

PRIEST 1: Do you see what is written there?

GUARD 2: King of the Jews?

PRIEST 2: You must tell the high priest; Go!

PILATE: What is it, Caiaphas?

CAIAPHAS: Pilate, the charges on His cross read, "King of the Jews." Many of the people are reading it; it should say that He only "claimed" to be the King of the Jews.

PILATE: What I have written, I have written.