

# GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

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

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Who goes there?

PILGRIM/WITNESS 1: Only a traveler from afar who comes to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast.

ROMAN 2: *(on the top of the wall)* It's just another pilgrim! The city is already overflowing with them.

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Come down from there. We'd better get back to our post, Pilate is due to return any time now. You'll be getting us both in trouble.

*[Sheep run across set]*

WITNESSING MOURNER: Good Masters, I have just come from Bethany where I was mourning the death of Lazarus and consoling his family. Many of you knew him and some here attended his burial four days ago. The man, Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee, came and stood before the tomb and called upon God and RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD!

*(CROWD Noise with following voices overlapping)*

PRIEST 2: What?! What are you talking about?!

PRIEST 3: Impossible! Why did you even come here?!

PRIEST 1: It can't be true!

PRIEST 2: Never!

WITNESSING MOURNER: He was dead; now He lives!

PRIEST 1: Guard, remove this man *(emphatically)*.

ANNAS: *(Interrupting)* Wait, *(Approaching the WITNESS)* You were there, and you believe this? *[MOURNER nods agreement]*

CAIAPHAS: Annas, that he believes it is all that matters, true or not. *(To the MOURNER)* Thank you; you may go.

**JOSEPH: Caiaphas, this man has done many miracles.**

PRIEST 2: Yes, Joseph, he has. And what are we going to do about it?

PRIEST 3: What can we do? It's a sign!

## ACT I—Scene 4c: Proclaimer & Jesus enters Jerusalem

# GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

*[CHILDREN'S voices crying, "I love you, Jesus,"  
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," and "Hosanna!"]*

**PRIEST 1:** *(Looking first at NICODEMUS and JOSEPH, then addressing JESUS)*  
Teacher, are you listening to what the children are saying?

**JESUS:** Yes, have you read what is written in the Psalm of David? "Out of the mouths of children, you make perfect praise."

*[PRIEST 1: leaves for Sanhedrin.]*

## Healing of Dead Child

**PRIEST 2:** Master, of all the commandments, which one is the greatest?

**JESUS:** Do you still test me? The greatest commandment is this, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One, and you shall love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets come from these commandments.

**JOSEPH:** You have answered well.

*[WIDOW drops in her two coins.]*

**JESUS:** *(Speaking to JOSEPH, watching the WIDOW)* Joseph, you are not far from the Kingdom of God.

**JESUS:** Do you see this widow? She's given more than anyone today!

**PRIEST 4:** She's only put in two copper coins!

## Act I—Scene 4F: Joseph and Nicodemus

**JOSEPH:** Nicodemus, as far as the high priests are concerned, Jesus might as well have said, "You won't see Me until you hail Me as King!"

**NICODEMUS:** I know, Joseph. I don't understand Him, but, I sense God all around Him.

**JOSEPH:** Powerful words. Truthful.

**NICODEMUS:** Puzzling. When I first met him, he said that the Son of Man must be lifted up just as Moses had lifted up the snake in the wilderness.

## GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

**JOSEPH:** Yes, the children of Israel had sinned against God while wandering in the wilderness and venomous snakes came among them, and God told Moses to fashion a bronze snake and put it on a pole.

**NICODEMUS:** God said, "If anyone was bitten, they could simply look at the snake on the pole and by faith they would live." But, I still don't understand what he means...that the Son of Man must be lifted up just like that.

**JOSEPH:** Where's he going with all of this?

**NICODEMUS:** I can't tell. He once told me, "The wind blows where it will," and "You do not know where it's going."

**JOSEPH:** Nicodemus, let's hope the wind knows where it's going.

### Act III—Scene 2: Sanhedrin trial

**CAIAPHAS:** Annas has questioned him and He wouldn't cooperate. We will hear testimony from those who have heard Him firsthand.

**PRIEST 3:** (*Rises and is acknowledged by CAIAPHAS*) We were in the synagogue on the Sabbath, as is our custom. Jesus of Nazareth was also present, and before us all, he healed a man whose hand was deformed.

**CAIAPHAS:** In the synagogue, on the Sabbath?

**PRIEST 3:** Yes! He has made it a point to call healing and deliverance His "work." Therefore, He "works" on the Sabbath!

**JOSEPH:** If there was a miracle, it had to be the hand of God!

**PRIEST 3:** God? God? Have you forgotten that Satan does signs and wonders?

**PRIEST 4:** He heals and delivers in the name of demons!

**PRIEST 3:** Even the prince of demons!

**JOSEPH:** And you heard Him call upon Satan?

**PRIEST 3:** Of course not!

# GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

**JOSEPH:** Then why did you say it?

*[Agitated Crowd noises]*

**CAIAPHAS:** Order! Order! You must wait to be recognized before speaking!

**SCRIBE:** Then call witnesses!

**PRIEST 4:** Jesus of Nazareth has not only taught in outlying synagogues, he's spoken openly in our own Temple courts. Many of you here were present when he threatened to tear down our Temple!

*[PRIESTS nod & acknowledge it as truth.]*

**WITNESS 1:** (Stepping up & being recognized) I heard Him say, "I will throw down this Temple made with human hands. And, in three days I'll build another not made with hands."

**WITNESS 2:** He said, "I can pull down the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days."

**WITNESS 1:** That's what he said!

**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!

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



# GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

**JOSEPH: A time for prayer, my friend?**

NICODEMUS: Joseph, a time for miracles.

## Act III—Scene 8a: Crucifixion

GASTAS: (4:05) Are You not the Messiah? Save yourself...and us!

DYSMAS: (4:17) Have you no fear of God? You are under the same sentence as He, for it is plain justice. We are paying the price for our misdeeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!

JESUS: (4:40) I tell you the truth. Today, you will be with me in Paradise.

PRIEST 1: (4:56) You said you were The Son of God; if You are, come down from the cross!

PRIEST 2: Are You, our King? Come down, and then we will believe!

PRIEST 3: (5:07) He has saved others; why can't He save himself?

PRIEST 1: (5:11) Why won't God rescue Him, if He is God's Son?

MARY LAZARUS: (5:30) What are they doing? What's happening?

SIMON OF CYRENE: (5:35) The Roman soldiers are dividing his garments.

**JOSEPH: (5:37) How can this be? How can they know? Is this David's prophecy?**

NICODEMUS: (5:43) It must be. "They have pierced his hands and his feet. They divided his clothes among them and cast lots for his garments."

JESUS: (6:00) Mother, see your son! (6:07) John, here is your mother!

JESUS: (6:20-23) *(Record two versions: One with a loud voice and another with a very soft voice)* My GOD! My GOD! Why have You forsaken Me?

ROMAN 1: (6:33) *(To ROMAN 2)* What is this? A Storm?

ROMAN 2: I don't know. It's midday, but the sun is going dark.

LONGINUS: I can feel this darkness. Report this to Pilate.

JESUS: (6:50) ...I...I am thirsty.

JESUS: *(With a loud voice)* (7:06) It is finished! (7:17) Father! Into Your Hand, I commit my Spirit!

## Act IV—Scene 2: Burial

**JOSEPH: Friends, Pilate has granted us the body.**

JAMES: Let us take him down from the cross.

## GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 JOSEPH (12.6.24)

NICODEMUS: We have brought spices and linen to bury Him.

**JOSEPH: And I have a new tomb nearby; we can take Him there.**

MOTHER: My own Son, how has this happened? Simeon warned me of this so many years ago, when Joseph and I first brought him to Jerusalem. I cradled him tightly, my little baby boy, after Simeon told me: "A sword will pierce your soul." Now I know what he meant.

*(The Pieta)*

NICODEMUS: Is this what the prophet Isaiah spoke of?

**JOSEPH: Surely, He took up our pain...**

MOTHER: He bore our suffering...

JOHN: He was pierced for our transgressions,

MARY LAZARUS: crushed for our iniquities,

MAGDALENE: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

MOTHER: and by his wounds we are healed.