

Passion Play – 2025 Witness 2/Taster Script (12.13.24)

Act III—Scene 2: Sanhedrin trial

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)*