

Passion Play – 2025 Servant Woman Script (12.13.24)

Act III—Scene 1: Peter's Denial

PRIEST 2: We have taken Him.

ANNAS: How many of His followers did you take?

PRIEST 2: There were only a few; we could've taken them, but Malchus released them.

ANNAS: *(To MALCHUS)* You released His followers?

MALCHUS: There were only a few, and they will not do anything; Jesus told them not to.

ANNAS: And why is it you believed Him? Word will get out now; you should have followed orders.

MALCHUS: One of Jesus' disciples began to attack, cutting off my ear. *(Removing helmet so all can see)* Jesus stopped him and...healed me. They will not fight.

ANNAS: Indeed.... I see.

SERVANT WOMAN: *(Letting PETER in)* Are you one of this man's disciples?

PETER: Woman, I do not know Him. *(Goes to JOHN.)*

SERVANT WOMAN: Come inside then.

PETER: I'll just stay out here.

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!

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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.]

GUARD 3: *(To PETER)* Aren't you the one that attacked Malchus in the garden tonight?

PETER: You are mistaken.

SERVANT WOMAN: You must be! You are a Galilean! You're accent gives you away. You must be one of his disciples.

PETER: Do you think I know every preacher in Galilee! I don't know him! I swear it!

SERVANT WOMAN: Why so defensive? Do you feel guilty?

PETER: Are you trying to get me killed? I swear I do not know Him!

[Rooster crows]

PETER: *(Looking at Jesus)* Oh, no! Oh, my Lord, no, NO!

(ECHOING AND SPECTACULAR AUDIO EFFECTS)

SERVANT WOMAN: He is one of them. One of that man's disciples!

JESUS: Before the rooster crows, you will have denied me three times...

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

Act III—Scene 3: Return of the silver

JUDAS: I must see the high priest!

SERVANT WOMAN: Who are you and why have you come?

ANNAS: It's all right. *(To Judas)* Why have you come? Everything went well, just as expected.

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JUDAS: Expected? Then, why was He condemned? Whose “expectations” were met in that? Not mine, and if they were yours all along, then I was lied to!

CAIAPHIAS: We didn’t know where the questioning would go or what direction His explanation would take...

JUDAS: (*Interrupting*) Explanation! You still expect me to believe you were trying to reconcile the two sides?

ANNAS: He said He was the Christ; the Son of God, before the whole council! That was the end of any explanation!

CAIAPHAS: Pilate will condemn just one, instead of all, and our place will be safe!

JUDAS: You mean your "profit" will be safe!

ANNAS: You accuse us? With the silver still in your hands?

JUDAS: Silver? Silver? (*Breaking down*) in my blood-covered hands! Innocent blood! Innocent blood, I tell you!

CAIAPHAS: He is not innocent to us. If you believe He is, that’s your problem.