

# PASSION PLAY – 2025 LONGINUS SCRIPT (12.16.24)

## ACT I—Scene 3: Pilate Arrives

**PILATE:** Claudia, it's good to see you here.

**CLAUDIA:** It's good to see you, too! How was your tour of inspection?

**PILATE:** It went well? When did you arrive from Caesarea?

**CLAUDIA:** Only a few hours ago. It went as well as can be expected. It was just long and lonely.

**PILATE:** In that case, I'll be sure to travel back with you.

*(Herod and his entourage is coming down the Via)*

**CENTURION (Longinus):** Pilate, there are rumors that this holy man of the Jews...Messiah, I believe they call him. There are rumors he's coming here.

**PILATE:** Longinus, it is more than rumor. It's fact. What is more, Herod my old enemy is also here for their Jewish Passover. But enough of this for now, let us go in.

## Act III—Scene 4c: Jesus before Pilate Privately

**PILATE:** Centurion! What's your report?

**LONGINUS:** Herod is returning him to us.

**PILATE:** So then, Herod seeks my friendship; I'll be forced to judge this man myself. Longinus, you've been in the city these last few days; what have you seen and heard?

**LONGINUS:** The crowd thinks He is sent by God, their "Messiah." But I've not heard Him claim to be King. In addition, I heard Him tell the priests to pay what Caesar required. I think the priests don't care for their Law as much as they envy His popularity.

**PILATE:** *(To JESUS)* I ask again: Are You the King of the Jews?

**JESUS:** Is that your own idea, or have others suggested it to you?

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**PILATE:** What kind of answer is that? You speak in riddles. Am I a Jew that I should be concerned with such matters? No, your own nation and their chief priests have brought you before me. I repeat: what in the world have you done?

**JESUS:** My Kingdom doesn't belong to this world. If it did, my followers would fight to save me from arrest. No, my kingdom is from another place.

**PILATE:** You are a King, then!

## Act III—Scene 6: Pilate Public Trial

**PILATE:** This man, Jesus, has been brought to me by your own chief priests and charged with rebellion against the authority of Rome. I've questioned Him and found no grounds for the charges against Him certainly nothing worthy of death. As is custom at this feast, I will release Him to you.

**PRIEST 1:** If you want to release someone, then give us Barabbas!

**PILATE:** Barabbas? Would you have me release a murderer into your very midst. Centurion, have Barabbas brought forth (*to the Centurion*). Quickly! (*to Claudia*) I shall show them what type of man they would release.

**CROWD:** (*Cries louder*)

**PILATE:** (*To Crowd*) Then, if I release Barabbas, who stands condemned, I'll also release Jesus, un-condemned!

**CROWD:** (*Various cries,*) "No!" "He must not be released!" Etc.

**PILATE:** But why? What's He guilty of?  
[*BARABBUS is brought out.*]

**CROWD:** (*Roars louder*)

**ANNAS:** By our Law, He has committed blasphemy by claiming to be the Son of God. And, according to our Law, He must be put to death!

**PILATE:** (*To Barabbas*) Look at this man! He's a thief! A murderer! Now which would you have me release to you? Barabbas? Or Jesus called Messiah?

**PRIEST 2:** Release Barabbas (*Voices rise crying out for BARABBAS.*)

**PILATE:** Speak to me! Don't you know I have the power to release you, or have you crucified?

**JESUS:** You would have no power over me if it hadn't been given you from above.

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**PILATE:** *(To the Roman with JESUS)* Remove him. *(To the ROMAN with BARABBAS)* Release Barabbas. *(To CENTURION)* Have Him flogged; humiliate Him; perhaps that will satisfy them.

*[JESUS is brought to the flogging post.]*

**LONGINUS:** Lysimus, now!

*5 pairs of hits, break, and then 3 pairs of hits.*

**LONGINUS:** Hold!

*(Roman laughter)*

## Act III—Scene 7b: Daughters of Jerusalem

**JESUS:** Daughters of Jerusalem! Do not weep for me. No, weep for yourselves and your children, for the days are surely coming, when they will start saying to the mountains: Fall on us. And to the hills, cover us. And if these things are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it's dry?

## Act III—Scene 7C: Simon of Cyrene

**LONGINUS:** He's too weak to go on by himself. You! Help him carry the cross.

**SIMON OF CYRENE:** Remember though that I am innocent. I'm here from Cyrene for the Passover.

## Act III—Scene 8a: Crucifixion

**LONGINUS:** *(To SCRIBE)* (2:45) Record this: Three crucified at nine o'clock this morning, Gastas and Dysmas for theft and rebellion, and one Jesus, King of the Jews! Nail him to the cross.

**NICODEMUS:** (3:00-3:05) It's as He told me... Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness...

*(NAIL, NAIL.)*

**MOTHER MARY:** (3:15) so the Son of Man must be lifted up...

*(NAIL, NAIL.)*

**NICODEMUS:** (3:22) This is what he meant.

*(NAIL, NAIL, NAIL.)*

**JOHN:** (3:28-48) For God so loves the world that He has given His Only Begotten Son... (Record as well He has given His One and Only Son for redundancy)

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JESUS: (4:01) Father, forgive them! They do not know what they do!

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 III—Scene 8b: Earthquake and aftermath

**LONGINUS: Break their legs and you may go.**

ROMAN 2: The one they called Jesus is dead.

ROMAN 1: (*Tossing him a spear*) Make certain.

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**MOTHER:** Even with his last breath, he trusted the Lord, crying out David's Psalm:

**MARY MAGDALENE:** "Into Your hand, I commit my spirit."

**JOHN:** But "You will redeem me, Lord, God of Truth."

**LONGINUS:** This was indeed a sign. Truly, he was the  
Son of God.