

PASSION PLAY – 2025 JUDAS SCRIPT (12.16.24)

ACT I—Scene 4a: Day Scene—Judas Insert

MALCUS: (To **JUDAS**) Friend! Welcome to the festival! We are looking for information on where to find Jesus of Nazareth; do you know Him?

JUDAS: I know of Him. And I know of you, Malchus, servant of the high priests. What do you want with Him?

MALCUS: The high priests want to talk to Him. They need to know where they can find Him apart from the crowd.

JUDAS: To arrest Him, I suppose?

MALCUS: They'd be very grateful for help; a hefty wage is hard to come by these days!

JUDAS: The high priests would be good friends to have... It could be to my advantage.

MALCUS: Can you help, then?

JUDAS: I'll ... I'll see what I can do.

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

PROCLAIMER: Jesus is coming, it is Jesus the prophet, and Lazarus is with Him.

[CHILDREN proclaiming; CROWD meets JESUS at Gate #1 and swells around Him as He proceeds on donkey. As soon as He dismounts, CHILDREN run to Him and surround Him as He approaches the Temple JUDAS rejoins the APOSTLE group. Layered voices: Who is this? ---Who is coming? ---It is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee! --- It is the man who raised Lazarus from the dead!]

CROWD: Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in The Name of the Lord! Save us now! It is the man who raised Lazarus from the dead! Let us through! We must see him. (Children's voices and other voices as well layered, with mention of Lazarus as well)

PRIEST 1: Master, Reprimand your disciples!

JESUS: If my disciples keep silent, the very stones will cry out!

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(Children Heard Rejoicing)

Act I—Scene 5: Anointing Scene

MARTHA: I give thanks to the Lord.

MARY LAZ: It's true; His faithful love endures forever.

JOHN: Yes, we have so much to be thankful for.

LAZARUS: He is my salvation. I will not die, but I'll live and proclaim what my God has done.

(Disciples & Jesus walk to Simon's house)

NATHANIEL: *(Excitedly)* Did you see the Look on that man's face when he opened his eyes and could see!

THADDAEUS: And who wasn't holding his breath when Jesus raised that child from the dead!

ANDREW: *(Speaking to JESUS)* It was a great day, Master.

SIMON: And what a welcome when we came!

JUDAS: *(Skeptically)* Well, I have a bad feeling about this whole thing.

JAMES: Why would you have a bad feeling? You saw how the crowd reacted.

JUDAS: *(Wondering)* It's the priests I'm worried about.

[The other DISCIPLES balk.]

ANDREW: *(Walking over to JUDAS and slapping him on the shoulder.)* Judas, There's nothing to worry about.

JUDAS: *(Coming in house)* This is wasteful. That oil could have been sold for 300 pieces of silver; and given to the poor.

JESUS: Judas! Why must you make trouble for this woman? *[Judas backs away]*

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It's a fine thing she's done for me. The poor will always be among you, but you will not always have me. Wherever the Gospel is proclaimed, what this woman has done will be told as her memorial. When Mary poured this oil on my body, it was her way of preparing me, for burial.

LAZARUS: *(Standing and placing a hand on Jesus shoulder)* For burial, Lord?

PETER: *(To JUDAS as he is leaving)* Where are you off to?

JUDAS: *(Turning as he is leaving)* I have some friends to see, some business to attend to.

Act II—Scene 1: Judas Plotting

JUDAS: *(To Sanhedrin GUARD at porch)* I am here to see the high priests concerning Jesus of Nazareth.

MALCHUS: *(going to CAIAPHAS & ANNAS)* A man to see you about the Nazarene.

JUDAS: I am Judas of Kerioth, a long-time disciple of Jesus, the one you are looking for. Why is it you are seeking to arrest Him?

ANNAS: At the first, we only wished to meet with Him. The Sanhedrin is divided as to what He teaches and what He says of Himself. Caiaphas and I felt that, if He could meet with them, the differences could be settled.

CAIAPHAS: He's a powerful teacher and could be a good leader if His youthful zeal could be tempered.

ANNAS: He teaches peace, even towards Rome. This could be a great advantage to our nation, considering our circumstances.

CAIAPHAS: However, many of his followers are as confused as our own Sanhedrin. If Caesar were to learn they cry, "Hosanna" to their King, it would be disastrous to our nation; we don't want that, and we believe he doesn't either.

ANNAS: And, we are confident we could end this division if we could only bring him before the Sanhedrin.

JUDAS: But he's openly denounced you!

ANNAS: He cries for holiness. We don't resent that.

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CAIAPHAS: But it has made it difficult for us. That is why it's necessary to arrest him before it goes too far. We can't afford a riot.

JUDAS: I can help you. It won't be easy. And it will cost you.

ANNAS: We understand, and appreciate your position. We can certainly help with something to carry you through.

CAIAPHAS: (*Counting out coins & putting them in bag*) Here, thirty silver coins enough?

JUDAS: It is enough ... it is; and this needs to be kept quiet.

CAIAPHAS: I will instruct the Temple guard. Go to them when the time is right. No crowd, no riot. We want it kept quiet as well.

Act II—Scene 2: Last Supper

PETER: (*As soon as he knows it's his turn*) You, my Lord? Washing my feet?

JESUS: You do not understand, but one day you will.

PETER: I will never let You wash my feet!

JESUS: If I don't wash you, you'll have nothing with me.

PETER: Then Lord, not my feet only! Wash my hands and head as well!

JESUS: You have been washed, only your feet were not. (*Rising, addressing all*) Now, you are clean, though not every one of you. Do you know what I have done? You call me "Teacher" and "Lord," indeed that is who I am. Since, then, your Lord has washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have done this as an example, you must do the same.

JESUS: Now, I must tell you something before it happens, so you'll believe in me when it does. It's written, "He who eats with me has lifted his heel against me." (*Pause*) I say now, in truth, one of you here with me shall betray me.

JAMES: (*After pause*) Which of us? Is it me?

NATHANIEL: Could it be me?

THADDEUS: Or me?

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SIMON: Is it me?

PETER: [*stands and beckons to John*] John, ask him who he means.

JOHN: Who is it, Lord?

JESUS: (*To JOHN, alone*) It's the one I will give this piece of bread.

JUDAS: Lord! Is it me?

JESUS: You've said it. Now, quickly, do what you are set to do!

JESUS: (*Blessing the bread*) Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the World. Who has given this bread to eat. Take, each of you, and eat all of it. This is my body, broken for you. (*Blessing the cup*) Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the World, our Father, Who has giving THIS cup to drink. Take, all of you, and drink from it. It is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you do this, remember me.

I will only be with you a little while longer, and where I am going, you cannot come. So, I give you this new command; love one another as I have loved you. If you do this, everyone will know you are—my disciples.

PETER: Where are you going, Lord?

JESUS: Peter, you can't go with me now, but you will follow, later.

PETER: But why can't I go now? I will lay down my own life for you.

JESUS: Would you, Peter? Truly, I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will have denied me three times. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. Then, I will come back to take you to be with me. You already know the Way to where I am going.

THOMAS: Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how do we know the way?

JESUS: I Am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father, unless they come through me.

PHILIP: Lord, if we could see the Father, it would be enough.

JESUS: Philip, do you not know Me, after so long? He that sees Me, sees the Father. The Father lives in me and does His works. Truly, anyone who believes in Me will do these same works and also greater works because I go to the Father.

Peace I leave with you; I give you My peace I have told you these things

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before they happen, so that when you see them, you will believe. I cannot talk much longer with you. The prince of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me, but the world must be shown that I obey and love the Father.

Arise, we must be going. Yes, we must be going.

[DISCIPLES leave upper room & gather outside in groups of three or four, as Jesus continues teaching as they walk toward Gate # 1

Act II—Scene 6: Arrest Scene

JESUS: *(To the THREE)* Are you still sleeping? Look, the hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed to sinful men. My betrayer is upon us. Let us go to meet him.

JUDAS: The one I kiss is your man. Seize him....Master!
(JUDAS embraces JESUS with kiss of greeting.)

JESUS: Friend, do what you are here to do.

JESUS: JUDAS, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss? *(To PRIEST 2)* Who is it you want?

PRIEST 2: *(Coming up by JUDAS, who has moved back toward the bridge)* Jesus of Nazareth.

JESUS: I am. I AM HE!

JESUS: *(Stepping closer to them)* Do you take me for a bandit that you have come with swords and cudgels to arrest me?

PETER: Lord, shall we use our swords?

JESUS: No, Peter! You must let them have their way!

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

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.

Act III—Scene 4a: Pilate Private Trial