

## Passion Play – 2025 Malchus Script (12.6.24)

**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 I—Scene 4a: Day Scene—Judas Insert

**MALCHUS:** *(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 priest. What do you want with Him?

**MALCHUS:** 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?

**MALCHUS:** 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.

**MALCHUS:** Can you help, then?

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

### Act I—Scene 5: Anointing Scene

**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 priest 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?

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**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

### Act II—Scene 3: I am the Vine

**JESUS:** I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Without me, you can do nothing. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you want, and it shall be done for you. If you bear much fruit, you will prove to be my disciples and My Father will be glorified. As the Father has loved me, I have loved you.

This, then, is my command, that you love one another in the same way. There is no greater love than a man laying down his own life for his friends. And, you are my friends...follow this command.

Now, I am going away to Him who sent me, and sorrow fills your hearts because I told you. Nevertheless, it is better for you if I go, then, the Comforter will come to you. He will guide you into all truth.

In a little while, you will not see me. A little while longer and you will see me again. You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices, but your sorrow will be turned to joy.

I've told you these things so you will have peace. In the world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.

### Act II—Scene 4: Gather a Crowd

*[PRIEST 2 & SANHEDRIN GUARDS appear from Temple doors and come to steps at center.]*

**PRIEST 2:** (To GUARD 2) Go get **Malchus**. Make sure Caiaphas is informed. We will need to know where to bring Him and how.

**PRIEST 2:** Secure a Roman detachment for the arrest.

**PRIEST 2:** (To GUARD 4) Gather some men, our crowd. We need enough to deter any ideas about resistance, but be quiet; we must not take the chance of alerting the city, YET. We must be sure we have enough show of support to put fear into the Nazarene's followers.

**ANNAS:** (To **MALCHUS**) When you take Him, bind Him and bring Him here first, as well as any of His followers who would stand up for Him. We must prevent them from gathering resistance.

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**CAIAPHAS:** Do not let Judas know our plans I will go to the Sanhedrin. We will convene and have the Nazarene to Pilate by morning.

### 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]**

**JESUS:** Put up your sword!

**PETER:** But my Lord!

**JESUS:** All who take up the sword, die by the sword.

**PETER:** But how are we to protect you?

**JESUS:** Do you suppose that I could not appeal to my Father who would at once send to my aid more than twelve legions of angels?!

**PETER:** Then do it Lord! Save yourself and save us!

**JESUS:** This is the cup my Father has given me. Shall I not drink it?

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**JOHN:** Lord, save yourself!

**JESUS:** But how shall the Scripture be fulfilled which says, "This must be." If I am the man you want, let these others go!

**PRIEST 2:** No, hold them all!

**MALCHUS:** Stop! Release them. (*MALCHUS ties JESUS' hands.*)

**PETER:** Lord!

**JESUS:** Peter, this has all happened to fulfill what the Prophets wrote.

**GUARD 2:** We have orders to arrest you and take you to the high priest. Will you come peacefully?

**JESUS:** Yes. This is your moment, the hour when darkness reigns.

### 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. 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?

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**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!

**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.]*