

# Passion Play – 2025 Pilgrim/Witness Script (12.20.24)

## ACT I—Scene 2: Guards at City Gates & Witnessing Mourner

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Who goes there?

**PILGRIM/WITNESS 1:** Only a traveler from afar who comes to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast.

ROMAN 2: *(on the top of the wall)* It's just another pilgrim! The city is already overflowing with them.

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Come down from there. We'd better get back to our post, Pilate is due to return any time now. You'll be getting us both in trouble.

*[Sheep run across set]*

**WITNESSING MOURNER:** Good Masters, I have just come from Bethany where I was mourning the death of Lazarus and consoling his family. Many of you knew him and some here attended his burial four days ago. The man, Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee, came and stood before the tomb and called upon God and RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD!

## Act III—Scene 2: Sanhedrin trial

CAIAPHAS: Annas has questioned him and He wouldn't cooperate. We will hear testimony from those who have heard Him firsthand.

PRIEST 3: *(Rises and is acknowledged by CAIAPHAS)* We were in the synagogue on the Sabbath, as is our custom. Jesus of Nazareth was also present, and before us all, he healed a man whose hand was deformed.

CAIAPHAS: In the synagogue, on the Sabbath?

PRIEST 3: Yes! He has made it a point to call healing and deliverance His "work." Therefore, He "works" on the Sabbath!

JOSEPH: If there was a miracle, it had to be the hand of God!

PRIEST 3: God? God? Have you forgotten that Satan does signs and wonders?

PRIEST 4: He heals and delivers in the name of demons!

PRIEST 3: Even the prince of demons!

JOSEPH: And you heard Him call upon Satan?

PRIEST 3: Of course not!

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JOSEPH: Then why did you say it?

*[Agitated Crowd noises]*

CAIAPHAS: Order! Order! You must wait to be recognized before speaking!

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)*

PRIEST 1: He has claimed to be God!

CAIAPHAS: *(To GUARD 2)* Take Him to Pilate, then go and gather a crowd, our crowd, and have them there at daybreak.

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**JOSEPH:** A time for prayer, my friend?

**NICODEMUS:** Joseph, a time for miracles.