

Great Passion Play – 2025 Priest 4 Script (12.20.24)

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!

(Children Heard Rejoicing)

JESUS: Blessed are you my children. *[He notices the girl who cannot walk...a 5-10 year old girl]* Little girl with the cane.

LITTLE GIRL: Do you mean me?

JESUS: Can you not walk without the cane?

LITTLE GIRL: No, I can't.

JESUS: Would you like God to heal you?

LITTLE GIRL: Oh, yes!

JESUS: Then you do not need the cane. Throw it away and walk to me.

LITTLE GIRL: (Hesitant at first) Are you sure?

JESUS: Come to me.

MARY MAG: Aw, Look! She walks unaided!

JESUS: Let the little children come to me! I tell you the truth, unless you humble yourself and receive the Kingdom of God like a child, you will not enter in.

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*[CHILDREN'S voices crying, "I love you, Jesus,"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," and "Hosanna!"]*

PRIEST 1: *(Looking first at NICODEMUS and JOSEPH, then addressing JESUS)*
Teacher, are you listening to what the children are saying?

JESUS: Yes, have you read what is written in the Psalm of David? "Out of the mouths of children, you make perfect praise."

[PRIEST 1: leaves for Sanhedrin.]

JESUS: Whoever receives a child like this receives me. But if someone causes one of these children to stumble, it would be better for him to have a millstone tied to him and be thrown into the sea! Don't ever look down on the children; their angels always behold the face of My Father in heaven.

*[A BLIND MAN has approached from stage right and
JOANNA has brought him forward.]*

JOANNA: Jesus, this man is blind.

PRIEST 4: I know him; he comes to the temple every day.

BLIND MAN: Jesus, our Son of David, have mercy on me! I want to see!

JESUS: As you have believed, *(He touches him)* so be it to you.

BLIND MAN: I see! I can see! Blessed be our God and Father! I can see!

SMALL GIRL: Don't go anywhere Jesus, I'll be right back!

PRIEST 3: You have healed a drunken sinner! A drunken sinner!

JESUS: Who among you, having one hundred sheep and losing one, won't leave the ninety-nine in the open field and search for the lost one until he finds it? When he's found it, he rejoices over that one more than the ninety-nine that didn't go astray! In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than for ninety-nine righteous who don't need to repent!
[Mary Laz. & Martha exit to prepare for anointing scene]

Healing of Dead Child

FATHER: We've come to see Jesus; our child has just died, and we heard He raised Lazarus of Bethany from the dead.

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LAZARUS: Yes, have faith! I am Lazarus of Bethany. I was dead, and now I'm alive!
(*Turning toward JESUS*) Jesus! This man needs your help!

MOTHER: Help us, please!

JESUS: (*Taking dead CHILD*) Father! Glorify Your Name!

PRIEST 1: (*Stepping forward as JESUS moves toward Temple*) Master! You are a teacher come from God; your miracles are proof of that, and you speak truth plainly without respect of persons. Will you tell us, then, is it lawful for us to pay the tribute to Caesar?

JESUS: You are hypocrites. Why do you try to trap me? Show me the tribute coin. Whose name on this coin?

CROWD: Caesar's!

JESUS: Whose image?!

CROWD: Caesar's!

JESUS: Then give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but to God what is God's.

PRIEST 2: Master, of all the commandments, which one is the greatest?

JESUS: Do you still test me? The greatest commandment is this, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One, and you shall love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets come from these commandments.

JOSEPH: You have answered well.

[WIDOW drops in her two coins.]

JESUS: (*Speaking to JOSEPH, watching the WIDOW*) **Joseph**, you are not far from the Kingdom of God.

JESUS: Do you see this widow? She's given more than anyone today!

PRIEST 4: She's only put in two copper coins!

JESUS: That was everything she had to live on. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in the chair of Moses: Do what they say, but not as they do, for they don't practice what they preach.

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Beware of the scribes and Pharisees. All they do is done to be seen of others! But whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted!

WOE to you scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! You make long prayers for appearance while, in secret, you devour widow's houses! You lock the Kingdom of Heaven from the people who would enter, and don't enter yourselves!

Woe to you scribes & Pharisees, hypocrites! You pay attention to the smallest details of the law, while ignoring the most important - JUSTICE, MERCY, & FAITH!

You clean the outside of the cup, but you leave the inside full of filth! Fools and blind! You must first clean the inside for the outside to be clean! You are like whitewashed tombs; beautiful on the outside, but the inside is full of corruption!

How will you escape the fires of hell?

O, Jerusalem, I am sending you prophets, sages, and teachers! Some of them you will kill and crucify! Others you will flog and hound from city to city!

O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem! I lament for you!

Scripture says: My House shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves. Be gone! Be gone all of you!

(JESUS cleanses the temple)

Behold, your house is left desolate! You shall see me no more until you have said, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

"Father, glorify Your name."

[Thunder effect]--Consider Voice of God from John 12:28--"I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again."

The voice you heard was for your sake, not mine. Whoever sees me, sees Him who sent me. I've not come to judge the world but to save the world. I don't speak on my own authority: what the Father has said to me is what I speak to you.

The light is among you still...but not for long. Walk while you have the light so that darkness may not overtake you. Those who walk in the dark, don't know where they're going. While you have the light, trust in the light, that you may become children of light.

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For now is the hour of judgment of this world! Now shall the prince of this world be cast out! The hour draws near for the Son of Man to be glorified. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

CHILDREN: (*Surrounding JESUS*) Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!

CROWD: (*Reaction.*)

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!

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

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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.

JOSEPH: A time for prayer, my friend?

NICODEMUS: Joseph, a time for miracles.