

Passion Play: James – 2025 Script (12.12.24)

ACT I—Scene 1: Raising of Lazarus

VOICEOVER of Isaiah 9:2 in Aramaic transitioning to English:

“The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.”

JAMES: Martha, the Master is here.

MARTHA: My Lord, if only you'd been here, my brother would still be alive.
(Pauses as if sorry for being vindictive) Even now, though he has died,
I know God will give you anything you ask for.

JESUS: Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA: *(Not seeing the requested miracle in His reply)* I know he will rise again, in the resurrection on the last day.

JESUS: I AM the Resurrection. I AM the Life. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?

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

ACT I—Scene 4e: Jesus teaches & Day scene resumes

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.

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JAMES: Why do 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.

Act II—Scene 1: Judas Plotting

Act II—Scene 2: Last Supper

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?

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!

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Act II—Scene 3: I am the Vine

Act II—Scene 4: Gather a Crowd

Act II—Scene 5: Garden of Gethsemane

Act II—Scene 6: Arrest Scene

Act III—Scene 1: Peter's Denial

Act III—Scene 2: Sanhedrin trial

Act III—Scene 4a: Pilate Private Trial

Act III—Scene 6: Pilate Public Trial

Act III—Scene 7a: Carry the cross

Act III—Scene 8b: Earthquake and aftermath

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Act IV—Scene 1: Sanhedrin Fear

JOSEPH: Friends, Pilate has granted us the body.

JAMES: Let us take him down from the cross.

NICODEMUS: We have brought spices and linen to bury Him.

JOSEPH: And I have a new tomb nearby; we can take Him there.

MOTHER: My own Son, how has this happened? Simeon warned me of this so many years ago, when Joseph and I first brought him to Jerusalem. I cradled him tightly, my little baby boy, after Simeon told me: "A sword will pierce your soul." Now I know what he meant.

(The Pieta)

NICODEMUS: Is this what the prophet Isaiah spoke of?

JOSEPH: Surely, He took up our pain...

MOTHER: He bore our suffering...

JOHN: He was pierced for our transgressions,

MARY LAZARUS: crushed for our iniquities,

MAGDALENE: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

MOTHER: and by his wounds we are healed.

Act IV—Scene 3: Request for Guards

Act IV—Scene 4: Posting the Guards

Act IV—Scene 7: Outside Upper Room (I want to see it)

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JAMES: Mary! What's happened? What is it?

MARY MAG.: (*Bursting*) Brothers, we have come from the tomb, just now; the stone was rolled away, and the body of Jesus was gone! Then, an angel appeared and told us He's alive...

MARY CLEO.: (*interrupting*) Raised from the dead!

MARY MAG.: Yes! And the angel told us to tell you! Well, say something!

PETER: Mary, I don't think that He...

MARY MAG.: (*Interrupting*) You don't believe us! Well, it doesn't matter, the angel said Jesus would appear to you.

JOHN: I want to see it.

Act IV—Scene 8: Appearance to Mary Magdalene

MARY MAG.: There were guards lying here unconscious.

JOHN: (*To Peter*) The wrappings are here, but no body.

PETER: (*Going inside first*) The cloth that was on His head is folded and off by itself.

JOHN: (*Falling on his knees*) It's what He said! (*Raising his hands*) I believe.

MARY LAZ.: Let's go to the others at John Mark's house. The angel said He would appear to them!

MARY MAG.: (*Coming out of Simon's house*) Was there something you wanted, Peter? [*She sees his distress*] Are you alright?

PETER: Let me alone awhile. I'll come down later.

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Act IV—Scene 9a: Appearance to peter

Act IV—Scene 9b: Emmaus Road

ACT IV—Scene 10: Bribing the Guards

ACT IV—Scene 11: Appearance to Thomas

ACT IV—Scene 12: Ascension