

GREAT PASSION PLAY – 2025 PETER SCRIPT (12.20.24)

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]*

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?

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

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?

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?

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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 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]

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Act II—Scene 5: Garden of Gethsemane

JESUS: *(To the eight, taking, PETER, JAMES & JOHN aside, says to them)* PETER, JAMES & JOHN your presence is a comfort to me. Sit here, while I go over there to pray.
(Moves off by Himself)

Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me, yet, let your will, not mine, be done.

JESUS: *(Touching PETER)* Simon, why are you sleeping?

PETER: I only closed my eyes for a moment.

JESUS: Pray that you will not enter into temptation...the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

[JESUS goes off alone, again]

JESUS: Father, if there is another way, let this cup pass from me. It is written of me, "I have come to do your will." And I will...I will do your will.

JESUS: Oh Father, My Father, if I must drink this cup, so be it, Let your will be Done in me, let Your will be done.

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!

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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?

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.

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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. *(Removing helmet so all can see)* 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?

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.]

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GUARD 3: *(To PETER)* Aren't you the one that attacked Malchus in the garden tonight?

PETER: You are mistaken.

SERVANT WOMAN: You must be! You are a Galilean! You're accent gives you away. You must be one of his disciples.

PETER: Do you think I know every preacher in Galilee! I don't know him! I swear it!

SERVANT WOMAN: Why so defensive? Do you feel guilty?

PETER: Are you trying to get me killed? I swear I do not know Him!

[Rooster crows]

PETER: *(Looking at Jesus)* Oh, no! Oh, my Lord, no, NO!

(ECHOING AND SPECTACULAR AUDIO EFFECTS)

SERVANT WOMAN: He is one of them. One of that man's disciples!

JESUS: Before the rooster crows, you will have denied me three times...

PETER: *(As he is leaving)* What have I done!

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

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.

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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.

MARY MAG.: (RECORD HER CRYING BEFORE THIS) Where are you, Lord? I know the Psalmist's pain: "I feel the anguish of death. Suffering and sorrow," is this my life now? "Lord, save me."

JESUS: Why are you weeping?

MARY MAG.: The body of my Lord is gone, and I'm not sure what has happened to Him.

JESUS: [May need to remind the audience somehow that Jesus is finishing the Psalm that Mary quoted: Record two versions: one with the Psalm line and one with just her name...] **When you were brought low, I saved you.** Mary!

MARY MAG.: Rabbi! *(She hugs Him.)*

JESUS: Mary, you can't keep holding on to me!

MARY MAG: I just can't believe you're really here! You're back from the dead!

JESUS: Yes, Mary, I'm really here, but now, I must ascend to My Father, and to Your Father. Now go, and tell the others that I will also appear to them.

MARY MAG: Yes, Master, I will tell them! You're alive! *(Mary runs down sidewalk to tell the others, saying:)* He's alive! He is Alive! I have seen the Lord, and He is alive!

[INCLUDE IN PROGRAM Psalm 116]

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Psalm 116:8 For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
⁹ that I may walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

Act IV—Scene 9a: Appearance to peter

PETER: *(Lifting his face toward heaven)* O Lord! John believes. You'd think I could believe, but what difference would that make? How can I prove myself now? I have failed Him! How could He ever trust me again? Oh! How could He ever trust me!

JESUS: Peter.

PETER: Lord.

JESUS: Lay aside your failures; they cannot separate you from Me. Return to Me.

PETER: But Lord, in the garden when I was sleeping, and then later, you saw... You heard me... I have sinned...

JESUS: And I forgive you. I heard you weeping bitterly because you thought you had failed Me. The battle was Mine alone to fight. I have fought and won, now, go to your brothers and strengthen them. I shall appear to them as well.

PETER: Yes, Lord! I will, I will strengthen them: for you are the Rock eternal. (Isaiah 26:4) There is no rock like our God!" (1 Samuel 2:2).

ACT IV—Scene 11: Appearance to Thomas

PETER: *(To Thomas)* That is how it happened after I went to the tomb. He has appeared to me, Thomas, and

told me to encourage the rest. Mary has seen Him; I have seen Him; so have all the rest of the apostles...

THOMAS: *(Interrupting)* Except me. All the rest but me. You have all seen him, heard him, and touched him, and you keep saying He will appear to me, too. Yet eight days have passed and still nothing! I will believe when I see, when I touch His hands and side!

[JESUS appears]

JESUS: Peace to all of you. Thomas, here's my hand; touch Me. Put your hand to my side. Do Not Doubt! But believe.

THOMAS: My Lord and my God!

JESUS: You have believed because you have seen. Blessed are those who believe without seeing! All that was written about me in the Scriptures had to be fulfilled, that the Messiah must suffer, die, and rise from the dead on the third day, to this you shall be my witnesses.

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