

Jesus Betrayed and Arrested

CHARACTERS: Jesus, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 18

JOHN: After Jesus had said these things, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and He and His disciples went into it.

PETER: Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with us disciples.

THOMAS: So Judas took a company of soldiers and some temple police from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

JOHN: Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to Him, went out and said to them,

JESUS: Who is it you're looking for?

PP: Jesus the Nazarene,

JESUS: I am He.

PETER: Judas, who betrayed Him, was also standing with them.

JOHN: When He told them, "I am He," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

JESUS: Who is it you're looking for?

PP: Jesus the Nazarene.

JESUS: I told you I am He. So if you're looking for Me, let these men go.

JOHN: This was to fulfill the words He had said

JESUS: I have not lost one of those You have given Me.

THOMAS: Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.

JOHN: (*aside*) The slave's name was Malchus.

JESUS: (to Peter) Sheathe your sword! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given Me?

JOHN: Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish temple police arrested Jesus and tied Him up.

PETER: First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

JOHN: Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was advantageous that one man should die for the people.

Jesus and Peter, part 1

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Police, Slave Girl, Pharisee, Annas, Man

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 2 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 18

JOHN: Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple.

PETER: That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest;

JOHN: I went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard.

PETER: But I remained standing outside by the door.

JOHN: So I, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in.

SLAVE GIRL: (to Peter) You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?

PETER: I am not!

JOHN: The slaves and the temple police had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold.

PETER: They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself.

JOHN: The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching.

JESUS: I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple complex, where all the Jews congregate, and I haven't spoken anything in secret. 21 Why do you question Me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said.

PETER: When Jesus had said these things, one of the temple police standing by slapped Jesus,

POLICE: Is this the way you answer the high priest?

JESUS: If I have spoken wrongly, give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit Me?

ANNAS: Send Jesus bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

JOHN: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.

POLICE: You aren't one of His disciples too, are you?

PETER: I am not!

JOHN: One of the high priest's slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

MAN: Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?

JOHN: Peter then denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.

Jesus before Pilate

CHARACTERS: Jesus, Peter, John, Pilate, Annas, Soldier, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 18-19

PETER: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning.

JOHN: They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

PILATE: What charge do you bring against this man?"

ANNAS: If this man weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed Him over to you.

PILATE: Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.

ANNAS: It's not legal for us to put anyone to death,

JOHN: They said this so that Jesus' words might be fulfilled signifying what kind of death He was going to die.

PETER: Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to Him,

PILATE: Are You the King of the Jews?

JESUS: Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about Me?

PILATE: I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?

JESUS: My kingdom is not of this world, If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. As it is, My kingdom does not have its origin here.

PILATE: You are a king then?

JESUS: You say that I'm a king, I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.

PILATE: What is truth?

JOHN: After Pilate had said this, he went out to the Jews again.

PILATE: I find no grounds for charging Him. You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?

ANNAS: (*shouting*) Not this man, but Barabbas!

JOHN: Barabbas was a revolutionary.

PILATE: Have Jesus flogged.

PETER: The soldiers also twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and threw a purple robe around Him.

JOHN: They repeatedly came up to Him and slapped his face,

SOLDIER: Hail, King of the Jews!

PILATE: Look, I'm bringing Him outside to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging Him.

JOHN: Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

PILATE: Here is the man!

PETER: When the chief priests and the temple police saw Him, they shouted,

ALL: Crucify! Crucify!

PILATE: Take Him and crucify Him yourselves, for I find no grounds for charging Him.

ANNAS: We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God.

PETER: When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever.

JOHN: He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus,

PILATE: Where are You from?

JOHN: But Jesus did not give him an answer.

PILATE: You're not talking to me? Don't You know that I have the authority to release You and the authority to crucify You?

JESUS: You would have no authority over Me at all, if it hadn't been given you from above. This is why the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.

JOHN: From that moment Pilate made every effort to release Him.

ANNAS: (*shouting*) If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!

PETER: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge's bench in a place called the Stone Pavement.

JOHN: It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about six in the morning.

PILATE: Here is your king!

ALL: Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!

PILATE: Should I crucify your king?

ANNAS: We have no king but Caesar!

JOHN: So, because of the chief priests, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.