

Garden Scene

(Jesus and 2 or 3 disciples enter)

Jesus: "Peter, James, John (whoever is there), please, stay and keep watch with me while I pray. My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death"

(Disciples, very puzzled, maybe asking questions, or affirming that they will keep watch and pray with him)

Jesus: "Pray also for yourselves that you do not fall into temptation." (I usually tried to say this directly to the guy I had dubbed as "Peter", just as an emphasis)

(Jesus goes to the center rock with the stool behind it and kneels, disciples take up "guarding positions", they get drowsy and fall asleep as Jesus prays)

The prayer varies but went something like this:

"Abba, Father! I know that all things have been given into Your hand. I know if You will, You can make this cup pass from me. Yet not what I will, but Your will be done." (stretch it a bit if you need to, add pauses, make it look like it's a struggle and a cry of the heart)

(2 Soldiers and Judas (if cast) should have the torch going, and be ready to enter from the side)

(Jesus stands up, notices disciples sleeping)

Jesus: "Why are you sleeping? Could you not wait with me one hour to pray? (on "rise", Soldiers and Judas enter) "Rise, let us go, here comes my betrayer now."

Judas: "Rabbi!" (moves in for the kiss on the cheek)

Jesus: (Holds Judas, stares at him) "Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Judas removes himself from Jesus' grasp, fades back behind the Soldiers)

(Soldiers move in, rough Jesus up and "escort" him off stage with Judas. Usually one roughs Jesus up and the other inserts himself between Jesus and disciples, threatening them and telling them to back down. Disciples loudly protest, etc and move off stage following the soldiers)

Encourage people to add in, but not make it too long. Jesus' words take center stage, but should be passionate AND concise, punctuated by comments from the

disciples and the soldiers. Judas really doesn't do much except betray and stay behind the soldiers to keep safe. We had one disciple end the scene running after yelling "Judas what have you done?" and we agreed that was pretty good. If you can get a couple of good "stage fight moves" out of Jesus and the soldiers it works well, but not too much, we don't want it turning into WWF/UFC Jerusalem style 😊.