

# Matthew's Story in a Nutshell

In De lastpost, een veelstemmig verhaal

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## Part I

### Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

Pilgrims are arriving in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Jewish Easter. Among them is Jesus, riding on a donkey. On his entry he is cheered by the inhabitants of the city, who expect him to drive away the hated Romans. Jesus goes to the temple, however. The children continue to follow him.

*(Dansen van plezier – Sing and Play)*

### Debate in the Temple Courts

Upon entering the temple courts Jesus chases away all the merchants and starts to prophesy about a new world that is coming. He is confronted by the priests and scribes. Jesus offends them by telling a story with an all too clear message. The people that have been listening respond with enthusiasm and the priests and scribes retreat.

*(Pardon, jongeman – Excuse Us, Young Man)*

### Meeting of the High Priests

The high priests decide that Jesus poses a threat and must be taken care of. At the same time they realise that they risk causing a revolt if they arrest him in public.

*(Niet op het feest – Not during the Feast)*

### A Woman Embalms Jesus with Expensive Oil

Jesus and his disciples are sitting at the table, when a woman enters. She approaches Jesus and pours very expensive oil on him to, in a way, anoint him as king. The disciples complain about the wasting of this expensive oil, but Jesus praises the woman. He says that with her oil she has already embalmed him for his death...

*(Die dag – That Day)*

### Judas Betrays Jesus

Judas, one of Jesus' friends, goes to the meeting of the high priests. He announces that for thirty pieces of silver he is willing to tell them where they will be able to arrest Jesus without being noticed. He is paid at once.

*(Wat komt hij doen? – What Does He Want?)*

### Jesus' Last Supper

On Thursday night Jesus and his friends celebrate Pesach, the Jewish Easter. At the start of the night, Jesus says that he knows he will be betrayed and that he also knows who will betray him. Judas is ashamed and slinks away.

*(Aan tafel – At the Table)*

In the Pesach ritual the youngest child (here: the youngest disciple) asks questions about the meaning of the celebration. The oldest person present, in this case Jesus, answers and tells about the history of the Jewish people: the enslavement in Egypt, the exodus through the sea, the coming together in one people under one God. After each answer everyone joins in a festive song of thanks.

*(Anders dan anders – How Come?, part 1)*

After the fourth question Jesus says unexpectedly that this Pesach meal will be his last. He breaks the bread and pours the wine. In the same way, he says, will his body be broken and his blood be shed. He then passes both bread and wine around and adds: in this way I give myself and everything for which I have lived to you. Then he instructs his disciples to do the same and in this way spread freedom, life and love.

*(Anders dan anders – How Come?, part 2)*

In conclusion everyone sings an exuberant song of praise.

*(Van hand tot hand – From Hand to Hand)*

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## Part II

### The Mountain of Olives (the Garden of Gethsemane)

On their way to a place to spend the night, Jesus tells his friends that they will all abandon him. They are shocked and protest. Jesus says to Peter: before the rooster crows, you will be gone.

*(Onderweg – In the Moonlight)*

In the garden of olives Jesus asks his friends if they will stay awake with him. He isolates himself and prays to God in despair. Three times he returns to his friends and each time he finds that they have fallen asleep. On his final return he urges them to get up and wait with him for his arrest.

*(Tussen de zwarte bomen – Among the Black Trees)*

Judas arrives accompanied by a number of men that have been sent by the high priests to arrest Jesus. He identifies Jesus by giving him a kiss. Jesus addresses him as 'friend'. Later Judas will come to regret his actions and he will hang himself from a tree.

*(Volgens afspraak – As Agreed)*

### Before the High Priests

Jesus is interrogated by the high priests, who decide that he should be put to death. Peter is watching from a distance when bystanders recognize him and accuse him of being Jesus' friend.

Three times he denies this. Then the rooster crows.

*(Die ken ik niet – I Don't Know Him)*

### Conviction by Pilate

As the legal authority of the high priests is limited, they take Jesus to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. He does not consider Jesus to be a serious threat, but the high priests pressure him to convict Jesus anyway. Pilate attempts to find a way to release Jesus and allows the people to decide who should be pardoned: Jesus or the infamous freedom fighter Barabbas.

*(Kiezen jullie maar – Who's it going to be?, part 1)*

Pilate is distracted for a moment when his wife urges him to leave Jesus alone.

*(Ik kreeg een droom – I've Had a Dream)*

In the meantime the high priests have incited the people to demand the release of the freedom fighter and the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate washes his hands and orders Jesus to be flogged and crucified.

*(Kiezen jullie maar – Who's it going to be?, part 2)*

### Jesus is Mocked, Flogged, Crucified; He Dies

During a rough soldiers' game Jesus is dressed up like a king and mocked. Next he is flogged to within an inch of his life.

*(Zo doen we dat – That's How it's Done)*

Afterwards Jesus has to carry his own cross to the place of execution, but, as he is no longer able to do so, a passer-by is forced to carry it for him.

*(Ik lijk wel gek – I Must Be Nuts)*

The soldiers then undress Jesus and nail him to the cross while the crowds of spectators mock him. In the middle of the day everything turns dark and the soldiers become frightened, but the mocking continues, even after Jesus cries out "My God, why have you forsaken me". At last he dies.

*(Geen woorden meer – No More Words)*

### After Jesus' Death

Strange things happen and make the high priests understand that the world has been changed forever.

*(Aan rafels – In Tatters)*

Jesus' body is placed in a grave, which is then sealed off with a heavy rock and guarded, at the request of the high priests. It seems as if all hope is lost, that it was all for nothing. Is this then the end of the story?

*(Adieu – Farewell)*

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## Epilogue

This may be the close of the Passion, but the story does not end here. Matthew and the other evangelists describe Jesus' resurrection and his command to all people to carry his message into the world; where he himself will then be as well.

*De lastpost concludes with a poem in song: Maar in mijn hart – But in My Heart.*