

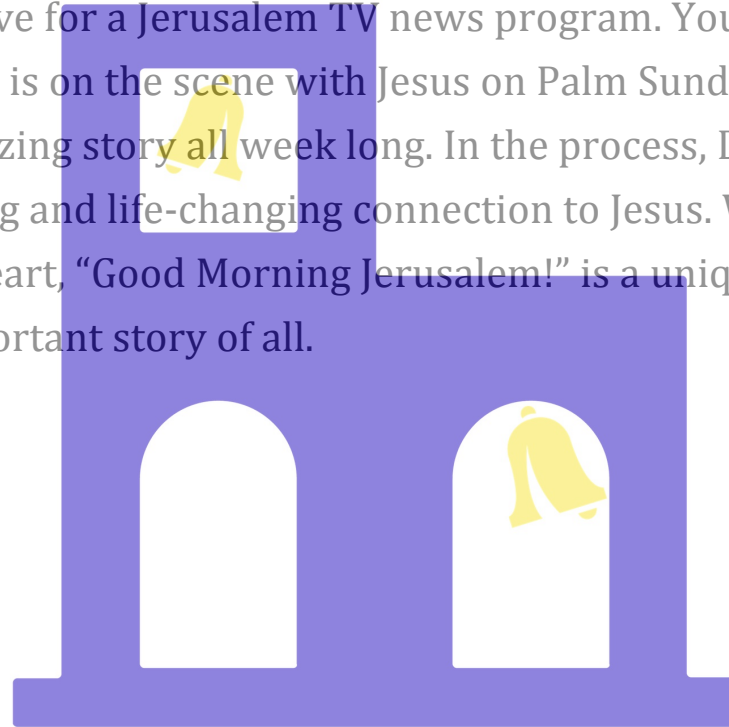
"Good Morning Jerusalem!"

Summary to:

Good Morning, Jerusalem!

By Elise Seyfried

"Good Morning, Jerusalem!" tells the story of Holy Week and Easter as reported live for a Jerusalem TV news program. Young reporter Daniel Rather is on the scene with Jesus on Palm Sunday, and stays with this amazing story all week long. In the process, Daniel comes to feel a strong and life-changing connection to Jesus. With lots of humor and heart, "Good Morning Jerusalem!" is a unique retelling of the most important story of all.



Arches ‘n
Bells

Good Morning, Jerusalem!

by Elise Seyfried

Text: The compiled Gospel accounts of Holy Week and Easter

Theme: Holy Week, Resurrection

Time Needed to Perform: 30-35 minutes

What going on? Holy Week and Easter are presented through the lens of a local television newscast. A reporter discovers that Jesus matters to him more than getting the big story.

When is it all happening? Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Who are the characters? Director, Matthew Lauer (co-anchor), Tabitha Guthrie (co-anchor), Daniel Rather (reporter), Philomena Scott (weather person), Learned Teacher, Crowd, Jesus, Nazarene Neighbor, Child I, Child II, Child III, Disciple, Judas, Announcer, Mary Magdalene

How should this play or skit be performed? This play can be performed as an all-church event in the sanctuary or fellowship hall, by a multi-age cast of children, youth and adults.

What props will we need? Table, two chairs, two sticks, palms, weather map, hand mirror, child-size broom, sign reading "Nazareth is for Lovers", a few rocks, two or three plates and glasses, a few coins, a toy sword.

ACT ONE:

Setting: TV studio, city of Jerusalem, Palm Sunday

Characters: Director, Matthew, Tabitha, Philomena, Daniel, Learned Teacher, Crowd, Jesus

SCRIPT:

1 **Director:** And we're live in 5-4-3-2-1

2 **Matthew:** I'm Matthew Lauer

3 **Tabitha:** And I'm Tabitha Guthrie

4 **Matthew and Tabitha:** *[Together]* Good Morning, Jerusalem!

5 **Matthew:** Broadcasting live from the heart of everyone's favorite
6 big city!

7 **Tabitha:** Featuring Philomena Scott with the weather.

8 **Matthew:** And our ace roving reporter, Daniel Rather!

9 **Tabitha:** Welcome to Jerusalem's top-rated morning newscast. First
10 on the scene to give you breaking *[Matthew breaks stick]* news as it
11 happens—and even before it happens!

12 **Matthew:** This morning we're at the gates of the world's most
13 famous metropolis because—

14 **Tabitha:** There's news. Big news! Breaking news!

1 **Matthew:** *[breaks stick]*

2 **Tabitha:** Will you cut that out?

3 **Matthew:** Sorry!

4 **Tabitha:** Before we go to our top story, let's get a weather update.
5 What's it doing out there, Philomena?

6 **Philomena:** Well, Tabitha, it's currently 30 degrees Celsius and
7 sunny. *[Holds up weather map]* The forecast is pretty quiet through
8 the week, and your outlook for Passover is beautiful—it should be a
9 lovely evening to get together with friends and celebrate.

10 But all that will change by Friday, when there is a significant chance
11 of a major storm. This storm should begin with darkening clouds
12 around noon, and that afternoon's weather looks pretty grim.
13 There's even—hard to believe—the possibility of an earthquake
14 around 3 PM, so brace yourselves for a little turbulence.

15 Looking ahead to next weekend, Saturday's cloud cover and rain will
16 give way once again to bright sunshine by daybreak on Sunday
17 morning. Weather-wise, this should definitely be a week to
18 remember! Back to you!

19 **Matthew:** Thanks, Philomena. Enjoy this beautiful day, and make
20 sure to wear your sunscreen!

21 **Tabitha:** Here's a quick rundown of other major news stories we're
22 following—protests outside several government buildings after this
23 week's scheduled "Free the slaves now!" forum was suddenly

1 cancelled by a troop of Roman soldiers. No comment from the
2 Roman soldiers. Definitely no comment from the slaves.

3 **Matthew:** Fire has gutted a *Matzo Hut* restaurant after an explosion
4 last night. Luckily there were no injuries, but gefilte fish were
5 scattered over a one mile radius. Fire officials do not suspect foul
6 play, but they think a vat of *Matzo Hut's* famous "Hot Hot Hot Hot
7 Horseradish" may be to blame.

8 **Tabitha:** But let's move onto our top story, and for that, let's go out
9 to our ace roving reporter, Daniel Rather! Good morning, Daniel!

10 **Daniel:** Good morning Tabitha! Good morning Matt! Good morning,
11 Jerusalem!

12 **Matthew:** Well, Daniel, it looks like quite a crowd is starting to
13 gather out there. Can you give us an idea of what's going on?

14 **Daniel:** Well, Matt, rumors have been flying around that a MAJOR
15 entry into town is about to happen. People are saying a new King is
16 coming, a powerful ruler—there has even been talk that this
17 mysterious visitor might be the Messiah himself!

18 **Matthew:** No way!

19 **Daniel:** Way! Not only that, this King is going to get rid of the
20 Romans, and make a brand new kingdom for the Jews!

21 **Tabitha:** What makes people think these rumors are true, Daniel?

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1 **Daniel:** Well, some of our learned teachers have been studying
2 Scripture, and they're finding clues everywhere! Let's talk to one of
3 our learned teachers right now. Good morning, sir!

4 **Learned Teacher:** Oh my goodness, are you—are you—

5 **Daniel:** Yes, it's me! Daniel Rather!

6 **Learned Teacher:** Wow. I am a *big* fan! But--you look so much
7 shorter in person!

8 **Daniel:** Thank you. So do you.

9 **Learned Teacher:** Can I give a shout out to my posse? Yo,
10 Pharisees! I'm on Good Morning, Jerusalem! Check it out!

11 **Daniel:** Can you just tell us what you think, based on these clues
12 you've found?

13 **Learned Teacher:** Well, we've all been waiting for the Messiah for,
14 like, ever. And all of a sudden, this guy named Jesus comes on the
15 scene.

16 **Daniel:** Jesus of Nazareth?

17 **Learned Teacher:** That's the guy.

18 **Daniel:** Isn't he the guy who's been roaming around for three years?

19 **Learned Teacher:** Teaching, healing, doing wondrous things, yeah,
20 him.

21 **Daniel:** But that doesn't make him the Messiah, does it?

1 **Learned Teacher:** Well, it's sure looking that way to me, Daniel!

2 **Tabitha:** Can we interrupt you here, Daniel? We're starting to see a
3 person entering the city. He has some people with him, and he's
4 riding a—a—well, it looks like a donkey!

5 **Matthew:** Now that's weird. Where's his camel?

6 **Tabitha:** Weird or not, the crowd is just loving it! They're waving
7 palms and cheering!

8 **Crowd:** *[waving palms]* Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hail, Jesus!

9 **Daniel:** Yes, Tabitha, it's amazing. It's like he's cast a spell on the
10 crowd. People can't take their eyes off this guy. Hold on, he's coming
11 right by here. Let me try to get a word...Sir? Sir?

12 **Jesus:** Peace be with you, my friend Daniel.

13 **Daniel:** Yes, that's me, are you a fan of the show?

14 **Jesus:** Not exactly. But I do know you.

15 **Daniel:** Hmmm, so....this is quite the hero's welcome! You must be
16 on top of the world!

17 **Jesus:** Not exactly. I know that people are excited about something
18 that isn't going to happen.

19 **Daniel:** The people are shouting "Hosanna! Save us!"

20 **Crowd:** Hosanna! Save us!

1 **Daniel:** I've been hearing them call out things like "Messiah" and
2 "King of the Jews"!

3 **Crowd:** Messiah! King of the Jews!

4 **Daniel:** Sounds like they expect you to be their new ruler!

5 **Crowd:** Be our new ruler!

6 **Jesus:** Ah, but my Kingdom is not of this world.

7 **Daniel:** So you're not here in Jerusalem to take over?

8 **Jesus:** I am here in Jerusalem for the end, and then the beginning.

9 **Daniel:** You've lost me there!

10 **Jesus:** Never mind, someday you'll understand.

11 **Daniel:** Well, welcome to our fair city, whoever you are! Hope you
12 have a really great time here!

13 **Tabitha:** May I break in here and ask a question?

14 **Jesus:** Yes, Tabitha?

15 **Tabitha:** Tabitha, right! Are you a fan of the show?

16 **Jesus:** Not exactly.

17 **Tabitha:** I've been hearing about the Son of God, come down to
18 earth. Are you—could you be—

19 **Jesus:** *[Smiles]* Now, if you'll pardon me, I have a journey to finish.

1 **Tabitha:** Oh, of course. But Jesus—will we see you again?

2 **Jesus:** You can count on it! *[Walks on]*

3 **Matthew:** And there you have it! Jesus of Nazareth—the mysterious
4 stranger who's taking Jerusalem by storm! And we'll stay on this big
5 story and keep you updated if there are any new developments! For
6 now, I'm Matthew Lauer.

7 **Tabitha:** And I'm Tabitha Guthrie, wishing you all...

8 **Together:** Good morning, Jerusalem!

9 **Director:** Aaaannnd...cut. That's a wrap. Good job, everyone!

10 **Matthew:** I don't know. I felt like my makeup was running. How was
11 your makeup Tabitha?

12 **Tabitha:** Well, Matt, I don't sweat like a pig, so no, my makeup was
13 fine.

14 **Matthew:** Who are you calling a pig?

15 **Tabitha:** If the snout fits...

16 **Daniel:** Enough! Can't we all just get along?

17 **Matthew and Tabitha:** *[Together]* He/She started it!

18 **Tabitha:** He grabbed the biggest dressing room, even though I've
19 been here longer.

20 **Matthew:** That's right, old timer. You've been around for ages!

1 **Tabitha:** That's *not* what I meant! And he's always interrupting me!

2 **Matthew:** *[Interrupts]* Not true! Not true!

3 **Tabitha:** *[Interrupts]* Yes it is! Yes it is!

4 **Daniel:** *Stop it!* Look, let's sit down and plan tomorrow's show.

5 **Director:** Finally, a voice of reason. You—what's your name again?

6 **Daniel:** Daniel Rather.

7 **Director:** For a young reporter, you're pretty impressive. You did a
8 great job interviewing that Jesus guy, although, he was a little
9 mysterious with some of his answers.

10
11 It'd be great to get some more background on him, interview some
12 of the people who know him. I have a feeling this story could be very
13 big, and our network can be on the leading edge!

14 **Daniel:** Yes, sir! I'm on it!

15 **Matthew:** and **Tabitha:** But wait! What about us?

16 **Director:** I'm going to give this kid a shot. If he messes up, one of
17 you can take it on.

18 **Matthew:** That's okay. I've done my time in the field. Anchoring is it
19 for me now.

20 **Tabitha:** Me too. I've paid my dues covering that nut case Herod,
21 and all the unrest here in town between the Romans and the Jews

1 and *[Looks in mirror]* please, please tell me I did not have barley in
2 my teeth during the show!

3 **Matthew:** Maybe just a little...

4 **Tabitha:** You rat! *[Lunges for him]*

5 **Daniel:** If this meeting is over, I have a story to follow!

6 **Director:** Go for it, Daniel! Bring us some good ratings. We have
7 really taken a hit lately from Ferret News. All they do is scream at
8 each other, but the people eat it up!

9 **Daniel:** I'm off! *[Exits] [END ACT ONE]*

10



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1 **ACT TWO:**

2 **Setting:** Nazareth, Tuesday of Holy Week

3 **Characters:** Director, Daniel, Nazarene Neighbor, Children

4

5 **SCRIPT:**

6 **Director:** And so our young ace reporter took on the story of the
7 century. Actually, the story of the millennium. Well, it was really the
8 story of two millennia plus...anyway, it was quite a story. First, he
9 traveled to Nazareth and spoke to Jesus' childhood neighbor...

10 **Daniel:** Excuse me, ma'am, I'm a reporter from Good Morning
11 Jerusalem. Mind if I ask you a few questions?

12 **Nazarene Neighbor:** *[Sweeping]* Move your feet!

13 **Daniel:** Is that a yes?

14 **Nazarene Neighbor:** Have you moved your feet?

15 **Daniel:** Sorry! *[moves feet. Woman sweeps]*

16 **Nazarene Neighbor:** What do you want to know?

17 **Daniel:** I'm covering the Jesus of Nazareth story.

18 **Nazarene Neighbor:** Story? What story? I know Jesus. Good boy.
19 Very polite.

20 **Daniel:** Oh, yes?