



“Waiting and Watching”

by
Tracy Wells

What In this short duet, we hear Philip and John recount the teachings Jesus gave from the Mount of Olives during Holy Week.

Themes: Easter, Holy Week, Jesus’ Love, Suffering, Eternal Life

Who Philip
John

When Biblical Times

**Wear
(Props)** Philip and John wear biblical attire.

Why Matthew 21:23-24:51; Mark 11:20-13:37, Luke 20:1-21:36, John 12:20-38

How Keep the dialogue energetic and conversational.

Time Approximately 3 minutes

Philip and John enter and cross to center.

Philip: *(to John)* It's nice to be able to all gather together like this.

John: *(running a hand through his hair)* Yes, especially after the week we've been having!

Philip: You mean that day Jesus cleared the temple? That was wild, wasn't it? I don't think I've ever seen Jesus so mad!

John: No...well, I guess...yeah, that too. But honestly, the day that's really been wearing on my mind is a couple days ago when Jesus took us to the Mount of Olives.

Philip: *(raising his eyebrows)* That was some heavy stuff, wasn't it?

John: No kidding.

Philip: I love nothing more than sitting quietly and listening to Jesus speak. Hearing about God's love and plan for us all is comforting and inspiring.

John: For sure. And I get that Jesus's teachings aren't all flowers and rainbows, but his sermon the other day was...

Philip: *(nodding)* A lot. It was a lot.

John: Yes, it was. Glad to hear it wasn't just me.

Philip: Not at all. In fact, a bunch of the guys were talking about it last night.

John: *(interested)* Oh yeah? What were they saying?

Philip: We were just talking about the whole *end of days* part.

John: That was pretty much the entire thing.

Philip: *(chuckles)* Yeah, I guess you're right. *(thinks)* So he started off by talking about his second coming, which...that concept alone is...

John: Heavy.

Philip: Yes! Very heavy! Anyway, he was telling us not to be misled by imposters claiming to be Jesus, which, you know, I can definitely see happening.

John: Absolutely.

Philip: *(looks back at table, then leans in closer to John)* But then he started talking about wars and famines and earthquakes. *(nervously)* Can you imagine? That sounds awful!

John: Horrible.

Philip: He talked about people having to flee their homes without any possessions—about having to brave the cold and the darkness in isolation.

John: And in desolation!

Philip: How awful.

John: Horrible. And did you hear what he says will happen to us? His disciples?

Philip: Ugh, yes. *(shudders)*

John: They'll persecute us and kill us. We'll be hated by every nation because we follow Jesus!

Philip: How can this be? How can being a follower of Jesus lead to such suffering?

John: And why tell us now?

Philip: *(thoughtfully)* I think he just wants us to be ready.

John: Ready? Why? Is this all going to happen soon?

Philip: I don't know. He said only God in heaven knows.

John: Then how can we be ready?

Philip: Jesus has been telling us that he will suffer many things at the hands of the chief priests. He's been telling us that he is going to die. I think he just wants to make sure then when he is gone, we'll know what to do.

John: *(smiling)* That's just like Jesus, isn't it?

Philip: What do you mean?

John: Looking out for us even as he faces his own suffering and death.

Philip: *(smiling)* It sure is.

John: *(thinks for a moment)* And you know, it wasn't all doom and gloom the other day on the Mount of Olives. He also talked about the fig tree.

Philip: *(brightening)* That's right!

John: He said that when the branch of the fig tree becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. *(thoughtfully)* What do you think he meant by that exactly?

Philip: I think he means that when we see these awful things happening, we will know that he will soon be coming. Just like the when we see the leaves sprout on the branch, we know summer is on its way.

John: So we just wait...and watch...spread the word of God...and have faith.

Philip: That's right. We have faith in Jesus's teachings and that when all is said and done, we'll one day get to live in the kingdom of God.

John: I think I can do that.

Philip: Me too.

John: *(squaring his shoulders and smiling)* You know what? I'm starting to feel lighter already.

Philip: Me too! *(places his hands on his belly and looks down)* Or maybe I'm just hungry. Hopefully we won't be watching and waiting for dinner.

John: *(indicating offstage)* Luckily for you, Jesus has set up a special Passover feast for us.

Philip: Let's go!

Philip smiles at John. They exit, indicating end of scene.

Lights out.