

Young Man Jesus Working with His Younger Brothers

For it came to pass that in a particular city that was near unto Nazareth, Joseph had made a contract with a certain rich man to build a house with his sons. And the contract was according to the time that was allowed by the rich man to Joseph and his sons to build the house.

And it came to pass that Joseph put his son Joseph Jr. in authority over Jesus and commanded him to build the house according to the desires of the rich man. And Joseph Jr exercised this authority over Jesus, evensomuch that he did nothing with his own hands to build the house.

And he commanded his other brothers (James, Simon, Judas) to help Jesus, but that they should rest when they were desirous and drink when they were thirsty. But Joseph Jr had set certain times that Jesus, who was even his elder brother, could drink and rest from his labors.

And when they would meet their father coming from another place in which he was engaged in other matters of his business, Joseph Jr would report on the progress of the house and explain unto their father Joseph, of the laziness and ineptness of Jesus in doing those things which he had commanded him to do according to the power and authority that he had been given over him by their father. And to these charges, Jesus would not respond.

And Jesus looked upon his brother Joseph Jr, and said unto his father: Ask of him at what stage of building we are according to the design and the contract that thou hast made with the owner of the house.

And Joseph inquired of his son Joseph Jr as to the stage of the building. And Joseph Jr said unto his father: We are yet in the first stage because of the works of Jesus, who refuseth to do those things which I have required of him.

And Jesus said unto his father, Joseph: It is true, my father, that the work of Joseph Jr is yet in the first stage, for that is the work that he hath done. But the work that I have done thou shall see on the morrow in the light, for that which hath been required of the contract shall be done by my Father.

And on the morrow Joseph went with his sons unto the place where they were building. And he went with them that there would be no further contention among them, and so that he could work with them and fulfill the terms of the contract which he had made.

And when they reached the house, the rich man was waiting there outside with full payment in his hand for that which had been done. For when they came unto the house and looked, it was complete according to all the specifications that had been given them. And they were all, except Jesus, astonished at the precision and the beauty of the house, which had been finished in one night.

And the rich man said unto them: When I arrived in the early hour of the morning, I saw those who were finishing up the house according to the design that I had given unto you. And after they were finished, I offered this payment unto them thinking that they were of thy hire, and that they had been commanded of thee to finish this work before the terms of our contract required.

And because of their work, which I supposed was commanded of thee, I offered them double of that amount that we had agreed upon because of the speed and the fineness of the work. But they refused to take my money, but instructed me to give it unto him who had commanded them. And when I asked of them who it was that had commanded them to work through the night by the light of their fires to complete this thing, they said Joseph Jr, thy son, had commanded it of them.

And with these words the rich man gave Joseph Jr, the son, the money that he had brought with him to pay for the terms of the contract which had been completed by the angels of God, according to the will and desire of Jesus.

And Joseph Jr accepted the money not knowing what it was that he should say to his father concerning those who had completed this work.

And Jesus perceived the perplexity of Joseph Jr and spoke unto his father, saying: It was this thing that our brother Joseph Jr did not want to explain unto thee, not knowing if thou wouldst become angered because of the hires that he made without thy permission, seeing that I could not do those things which he had commanded of me.

And Joseph Jr looked upon Jesus in wonder and amazement and did not have that which he should say.

And Joseph said unto his son (Joseph Jr): That which thou hast done is a good work. Now, go and take some of this money and pay those whom thou hast hired to do this thing. And Joseph Jr gave unto his father all the money except that which his father had determined was sufficient to pay those whom he supposed his son had hired.

And Jesus smiled upon his brother Joseph Jr. And it came to pass that Jesus left with his father and his other brothers while Joseph Jr stood with the money that his father had given unto him to pay the hirelings.

And when Joseph Jr had counted out the money that his father had given unto him, he counted exactly thirty pieces of silver. And at the exact moment that he had counted out this amount, he looked back towards the way wherein his father and brothers were going, and Jesus looked back upon him and smiled once again upon Joseph Jr.

And now, Joseph Sr had been taught by his father, and also by the leaders of the church, that Jesus was not the Messiah, but a man who might have a mission of prophecy unto the people, but that unless the church sanctioned his preaching and his ministry, then it could not be from God.

And because of the words which Jesus had taught unto them as a child, even the words of wisdom that even they could not understand, the leaders wanted to know all things concerning him throughout the days of his life.

And for this reason, the leaders of the church made the son (Joseph Jr) of Joseph a spy for them of all that which Jesus said and did during the course of his life with his family.

And it came to pass that Joseph Jr took the money that his father had given unto him and went unto the High Priest Caiaphas and told him all things which were done that day.

And the High Priest commanded Joseph Jr to speak to no one concerning this thing, but that he should take no more authority over Jesus in the course of the business of his father Joseph.

And the High Priest took the money, even the thirty pieces of silver, and put it in a secret place that it might be used against Jesus if it were possible. For behold, if money was needed against Jesus, the High Priest felt that he could not use the money of the church, nor should he use his own money to do that which was needed against a wicked man as he supposed.

And this was done that the words of the prophet might be fulfilled which he spoke, saying: And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.

And from that time forth, Joseph Jr did not command Jesus in anything, neither did he mock him or make cause against him before his father Joseph, and this according to the instructions that he had received from the High Priest.