

Too Short

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (First Greek Form)
The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (Second Greek Form)
The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (Latin Form)
The Arabic Infancy Gospel
The Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew
by Don Falkos
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Jesus was passing by the shop of a man who dyed cloth for a living. The seven-year-old boy went into the shop, collected all the cloth he could find, and threw it all into a vat of indigo. When the dyer came in, he was distraught, "Why have you done this to me. I'll be ruined. Each of those cloths was to be dyed a different color according to the customer's preference."

Jesus asked, "What colors would you like them to be?" He began to take the pieces of cloth out of the vat; and each piece was the color the dyer needed it to be. By the time he had taken them all out, a crowd of onlookers had gathered outside the shop gaping with amazement and a hint of fear.

When Jesus was eight years old, he went into the fields with his father, who was sowing wheat. Jesus sowed a single handful. Yet when harvest time came, that single handful produced a crop so large Jesus used it to feed all the widows, all the orphans, all the poor for miles around.

Now Joseph had been commissioned by a wealthy man to make him a couch. Joseph was accustomed to building plows and yokes and other such utilitarian items. So he welcomed the opportunity to use his more creative talents. He first cut the two cross pieces for the couch only to discover he had cut one of them too short. He was upset.

But Jesus said, "Father, lay the two pieces of wood down side by side and take a firm hold of the shorter piece." Joseph did as his son suggested. Then Jesus took hold of the other end of the short piece of wood and stretched it until it was equal in length to the other.