

Twelve Sparrows

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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Mary and Joseph were headed home to Nazareth. They came into a town where a wedding was being celebrated. But due to an evil spirit, the bride had become deaf and mute. The bride saw the baby Jesus, took him in her arms, held him, kissed him, and rocked him back and forth. All at once her tongue was loosened – she could speak – and her ears were opened – she could hear. She praised God, and the whole town was ecstatic with joy.

The next day, a woman took Jesus' bath water and used it to bathe a girl from the town whose body was white with leprosy. After her bath, the girl was clean – the leprosy was gone.

One day when Jesus was three years old, he took a dried, salted fish, and put it in a bowl. He told it to come back to life, and as it began to twitch, he said to the fish, "Empty yourself of salt, and go back into the water." The fish jumped from the bowl and flopped into the nearby stream. All that was left in the bowl was a small pile of salt.

When Jesus was five years old, he used some soft clay from a stream to fashion twelve sparrows. Since it was the Sabbath, some of the boys he was playing with ran to Jesus' father and told him what was happening. Joseph came and said, "Jesus, playing in the water is one thing. But making figures from the clay is something else altogether. The Law of Moses forbids us to work on the Sabbath. Why are you breaking the Law?"

Jesus clapped his hands saying, "Off you go!" The sparrows came to life and flew away chirping. Jesus looked at his father and said, "What work? What figures?"

Some who were there admired Jesus; others did not.