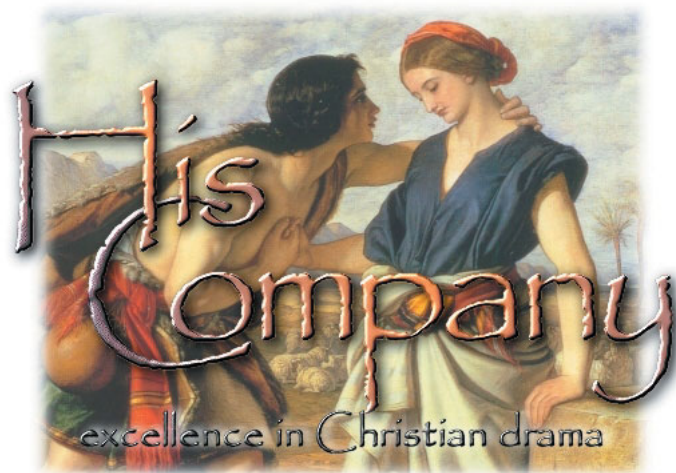


# **Two Blocks Down, Then Take a Left...**

## **A FABLE**

FROM *THE TWELVE*

by  
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**AUTHOR'S NOTE**

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The wife of the disciple James (the lesser) inquires as to the address of her previously deceased husband. Expecting him to be as anonymous in heaven as he was on earth, she is surprised to find he is one of heaven's leading citizens.

5

References:

Matthew 20:25-28

Mark 10:31

Luke 19:12-24

I Corinthians 31:12-15

10

II Corinthians 5:10

Revelation 20:12

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**CHARACTERS**

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Wife of James

15

Angel

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**SET AND PROPS**

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Small table and stool

Very large book

20

Large stylus

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**SCENE**

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*The Time: Yesterday*

*The Place: Just inside the Pearly Gates*

25

*House lights down.*

*Stage lights up.*

30

*Enter an angel, the Keeper of the Book of Life. He is dutifully lugging his massive tome, which he places—with great effort—upon a table. He is just settling into place to write in the book when a woman cautiously enters. She is dressed in rather typical “biblical” attire, against the angel, who is robed in white. She timidly approaches the table.*

**Woman**

35

Hello? Uh, they sent me here. Is this the right place?

**Angel**

*(preoccupied; disdainfully)*

That depends.

40

**Woman**

*(confidently)*

They said, “See the one at the table—with the book. Malaki.” Are you Malaki?

**Angel**

*(still preoccupied)*

45

In person.

**Woman**

I don’t get it. Wasn’t the last guy “Malaki”?

**Angel**

50

Oh, we’re all named Malaki. It’s generic, like... Pharaoh, or... Kleenex.

**Woman**

I’m trying to find somebody and they said you could help me.

**Angel**

*(proudly)*

55

I am the Keeper of the Book of Life. In this book are the names of every person who has given his heart and soul to Jesus Christ.

**Woman**

*(pressing on)*

60

Here’s the thing: My husband died twenty years ago. He was a disciple of Jesus, but not a very important one. Nobody ever knew a thing about him; he didn’t make any of the written accounts. So I don’t know if he’d even be in your book.

**Angel**

Oh, I can guarantee he is in the book.

65

*(pause; looking at her with suspicion)*

Ahem, are you?

**Woman**

I resisted for a long time, but just before I died, I believed in Jesus and gave Him my life.

70

**Angel**

Just under the wire, huh?

**Woman**

Now I'm looking for my husband—for old time's sake. You know how it is.

75

**Angel**

*(a bit embarrassed)*

Well, actually, I don't...

**Woman**

Could you tell me where he is? His name is James, son of—

80

**Angel**

*(surprised)*

You don't mean the James? Son of Alphaeus? You're kidding!

**Woman**

You know him?

85

**Angel**

Know him! Why, he's one of our leading citizens! Everybody knows James, son of Alphaeus.

**Woman**

Wait a minute. Short guy... dark, curly hair...

90

**Angel**

Sure. I even know which page he's on.

*The angel flips to a page in his book and displays it proudly, pointing to one line.*

95

**Woman**

*(leaning over the table to where the Angel is pointing)*

Five stars?

100

**Angel**

Our highest rating.

**Woman**

But, he was just another guy. Very ordinary.

**Angel**

105

Precisely!

**Woman**

If that's the case, how do the real biggies live up here? Guys like Moses, Peter, John...

**Angel**

110

Just about like everyone else.

**Woman**

I can't figure this.

**Angel**

115

Well, it's really not part of my job description, but I'll try to explain. There are no favorites in heaven. God loves all who take their residence here. However, the Father does have a rewards system.

**Woman**

Rewards?

**Angel**

120

No one can buy their way into heaven. But God's children are apportioned talents and what they accomplish with those talents is remembered by the Father. He rewards the diligent works of everyone belonging to Him.

**Woman**

125

Then the apostle Peter must have the finest accommodations.

**Angel**

Not necessarily. Peter received so many rewards while on earth: he was a respected leader; a writer, whose teachings will live on till the end of time.

130 *(pause)*

The Father has a soft spot in His heart for the servant who received no glory during his earthly life. He has a very special love for those who keep plugging when no one notices their labors.

*(pause)*

135 Tell me, what did James do while he was... down there?

**Woman**

Well, he was kind of forgotten. He always ended up doing the jobs no one else would. Taking out the trash. Sweeping the church floor. Visiting with the beggars.

140 **Angel**

He didn't get many thank-you's for his work, did he?

**Woman**

Hah! Nobody even knew about it!

**Angel**

145 But he kept on with it—never shirking from the most menial task.

**Woman**

*(shrugging)*

Somebody had to do it.

**Angel**

150 James didn't receive much glory while he was on earth?

**Woman**

Glory? They forgot he existed!

**Angel**

*(leaning forward to make his point)*

155 God didn't.

*(pause)*

And now James has been paid in full. He now has all the glory that others received while they were on earth. The difference is, their glory came from men; James' glory is from the Father—in person.

160

**Woman**

Sounds like my husband has finally made a name for himself.

**Angel**

He made his name on earth. Now he's reaping the reward.

**Woman**

165

*(insistent)*

Back to my original question: Can you tell me where he is?

**Angel**

*(after thinking about it)*

Why don't I take you there myself. His palace isn't far. Anyway, I'd like to be there when he receives his finest reward.

170

**Woman**

And what's that?

**Angel**

Why, you, of course! Twenty years ago he didn't know if he'd ever see you again. And now he will—for eternity.

175

*They exit together.*

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