

John 5 Gospel Light excerpt

Father and Son

Arts and handicrafts have been kept secret for long ages in most Oriental countries where the machine has not made its appearance. In this way the arts have been handed down from father to son. The secrets of blacksmith, coppersmith and silversmith are thus carried down from generation to generation.

When strangers desire to learn a trade or an art, they have to work for years without pay, so as to acquire skill in workmanship. The master does not reveal the secrets of his trade to his apprentices until they have served out their full time and proven to be worthy of his confidence and favor. Some apprentices who have not been loyal to their masters, leave their trades without knowing the secrets which give distinction to their art works and make them saleable. Such men cannot start in business for themselves, but must secure employment in other places in the hope of gaining the knowledge of trade secrets which they lack.

This is not so with the son who, from his childhood, is brought up under the care of his father. He eats with his father; works with him in the field and at the shop; and shares his life from the outset. The daughter imitates her mother and learns her occupation.

In a shop, one sees a father and his little boy working together. The father mixes formulas and finishes objects in the presence of his son. The apprentices and other workers are not allowed to see these processes. But the father teaches his son everything he knows and allows him to practice on objects that an apprentice is not allowed to touch. The father teaches his son with gentleness and patience, hoping

someday to hand over to him the family trade to be continued in every particular in the coming generation.

Jesus did not gain his knowledge from schools, rabbis or priests, but from his Father. The prophets and priests were selected and trained to learn the secrets of the kingdom of heaven which they did not understand for they were strangers and apprentices. Jesus was the Son, and he knew everything, not so much from the books, but from his Father with whom he communed and who kept nothing from him. What he was doing, was therefore the work which the Father intended should be done. He and his Father were working in harmony and accord.