

Lucifer stopped talking and peered into the mist. He felt the presence before he saw it.

The black clad figure strode up to God and Lucifer. The word surprised would have been a gross understatement in describing how they felt at that moment as Christ approached.

"Well if it isn't the late, great, J.C.," said Lucifer. "It's been a long time. Let's have a look at you." Lucifer looked Christ up and down. "I love the ensemble - black boots, jeans, T-shirt topped with a black leather jacket? Fashion statement?"

"Mood thing," Christ replied grinning.

"Really. Feeling a little dark?" Lucifer asked. "Maybe we could get together finally."

"No thanks. I'm selective about the company I keep."

"So how have you been?" Lucifer asked. "Still just hanging around?" He mimicked the crucifixion position.

"That was good. Very funny. So how in *hell* is your new job going?" Christ replied.

"Touché," responded Lucifer. "But - "

"That's enough, boys!" God roared and the thunder rolled.

Christ and Lucifer stared silently at one another.

"To what do we owe the honor of this rare appearance?"
asked God.

"Bad news travels fast. I heard there was a problem of
biblical proportions," answered Christ. "No pun intended."

"It's so not like you to get involved," said God.
"Especially after that last time."

"Yeah, well it's never a good thing when you two get
together like this so I thought I'd check it out."

"There's nothing to check out," said Lucifer. "It's been
taken care of."

"Taken care of how?" asked Christ.

"Hell," replied Lucifer. "The only way to contain the
problem was to send him to hell for safe keeping."

Christ smiled sarcastically. "This is even worse than that
Job thing you two pulled off years ago." Christ shook his
head, turned and walked away, talking as he left. "I told
you, you never should have let those guys write that book
without a little more supervision."

"Again with the book," God moaned. "It's worked for
two thousand years."

"Well it ain't working now," Christ called back over his
shoulder.