

1 **HOOK**

Episode SFX come in underneath Narrator.

001 NARRATOR

Patara, Turkey, 300 A.D. Having completed his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Nicholas returns to Patara profoundly changed, and determined to give away his inheritance. Under the cover of night, he begins distributing his fortune to those in need. But despite his efforts to remain anonymous, rumors of a mysterious benefactor spread. Can his identity remain a secret?

2 **INTRODUCTION**

002 NARRATOR

The Saints: Adventures of Faith and Courage. Saint Nicholas. Episode Three: Chosen to Lead. Listen to all the episodes and discover new shows at The Merry Beggars dot com.

3 **SPONSOR**

003 NARRATOR

This show is made possible by...

INSERT 15-SECOND SPONSORSHIP HERE

4 **SOUNDTRACK**

THE MERRY BEGGARS SOUNDMARK

004 NARRATOR

The Merry Beggars presents...

5 **INT. COTTAGE - NIGHT**

LOW, FAINT CRACKLING OF A DYING FIRE. WIND WHISTLING AGAINST OLD SHUTTERS.

005 OLD WOMAN

We worked all our lives,
Horatius... sunrise to sunset, year
after year. And now... now we have
nothing left. The landlord... he
took almost everything for the rent
we couldn't pay.

START >>> 006 OLD MAN
Hush, my dear. We still have one
another. And the Lord... He will
provide. He always has.

007 OLD WOMAN
But what if... what if this time is
different? What if He has forgotten
us? We prayed... we prayed so hard
for a miracle.

A SHARP THUD AGAINST WOOD, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY
BY A SOFT CLINKING JINGLE AS A BAG OF COINS
SETTLES ON THE ROOM'S FLOOR. WALLA: THE OLD
COUPLE GASPS, THEIR BREATH CATCHING IN THEIR
THROATS.

008 OLD WOMAN (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Did you hear that?

009 OLD MAN
(wary)
Stay behind me, Claudia.

THE OLD MAN WALKS SLOWLY ACROSS THE ROOM.

010 OLD MAN (CONT'D)
Nothing... I don't see anything.

SOMEONE DASHES OUTSIDE THE ROOM. A SHUTTER
CREAKS OPEN, THEN SLAMS SHUT.

011 OLD WOMAN
Someone was in the room! A thief!

012 OLD MAN
Wait... wait.

The OLD MAN steps over a bag with coins. He bends down.

THE COINS CLINK AS HE LIFTS THE BAG.

013 OLD MAN (CONT'D)
What's this...?

THE COINS CLINK AGAIN AS HE OPENS THE BAG.

014 OLD MAN (CONT'D)
It's... A bag of coins.

015 OLD WOMAN
Coins?

016 OLD MAN

Yes! Gold coins! But... Where did they come from?

THE OLD WOMAN GASPS EXCITED.

017 OLD WOMAN

It's a miracle, Horatius!

018 OLD MAN

Praise be to Jesus! He has not forgotten us, Claudia! He has not forgotten us!

<<< END

THE COUPLE HUGS, CHEERFULLY. A HOPEFUL MELODY BEGINS AND TRANSITIONS TO THE MONTAGE.

6 EXT. STREET - MORNING (MONTAGE)

THE MELODY CONTINUES SOFTLY BENEATH THE VOICES. BUSTLING STREET SOUNDS

019 BOY 1

Look Mama! Someone left bread at our door again! And it's still warm!

020 WOMAN

Thank you, whoever you are!

7 EXT. CAMP - MORNING (MONTAGE)

WALLA: MURMURS OF SOLDIERS IN DISBELIEF.

021 SOLDIER

I am telling you, fellow Legionaries, someone left a pouch with coins at the camp entrance. There's enough silver to get home to our wives and children!

8 INT. COTTAGE - MORNING (MONTAGE)

022 MERCHANT

I have no money left to pay for new leather. Without it... We'll lose the shop.

023 APPRENTICE

Master! Look! On the step! A huge sack of new leather! Enough for a year!