



## From Iniquity to Sanctity St Mary of Egypt

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*“At one time, you were alienated from me, separated because of your sin. But Jesus made peace between us by shedding His Blood on the Cross. Because of His death, you have been reconciled to me. You are holy in my sight, without blemish. No one can accuse you. There is no condemnation. You have been pardoned. (Colossians 1:20-22)”*

Sometimes in our lives, we come to a point where we believe there is no reason for controlling our corrupt nature, and make foolish excuses to continue living in the sinful way so that our physical and earthly desires may be fulfilled. St Mary of Egypt lived in the fifth century. She was immoral in every way imaginable. Yet St Mary became a Christian through one very simple incident which changed her way of thinking and livelihood until the day of her death.

St Mary was a harlot who repented and serves as a hope and inspiration to so many people who are lost but desire to change for the better. At the young age of twelve, St Mary began her long years of public prostitution in Alexandria. When St Mary was seventeen, there was a mass pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St Mary went along with the pilgrimage in the hope that life onboard ship to Palestine would provide her new and plentiful occasions of satisfying an unquenchable lust within her.

After arriving in Jerusalem she persisted in her shameless life, and on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, joined the mass towards the Church, hoping to meet some new victims whom she might draw into sin. When St Mary reached the door of the Church, she suddenly felt herself repelled by some mysterious force, and having vainly attempted three or four times to enter, she retired to a corner of the Churchyard, and was struck with remorse



**St. Mary of Egypt**

*“In you, Mother, the image was perfectly preserved. For taking up the Cross, you followed Christ, and taught by deeds: to disdain the body, since it passes away, but to look to the soul, a thing immortal. This is why your spirit, venerable Mary, rejoices with the angels.”*

for her sinful life. Her wicked life she recognized, was the cause of exclusion from the Church.

Bursting into bitter tears and beating her chest, she began to regret all of her sins. At that very moment, St Mary's eyes fell upon the Blessed Virgin Mary's image. Instantly St Mary begged for help and guidance in her life so that she might alter her life of iniquity.

After this confrontation, St Mary entered the Church without the smallest amount of difficulty. As she prayed in the Church, she heard a voice which told her that if she crossed the Jordan River she would find peace.

That very night, St Mary reached the Jordan and received Holy Communion from a priest-monk, St Zosimas. From that day forward St Mary lived the rest of her life in the desert living off herbs. She

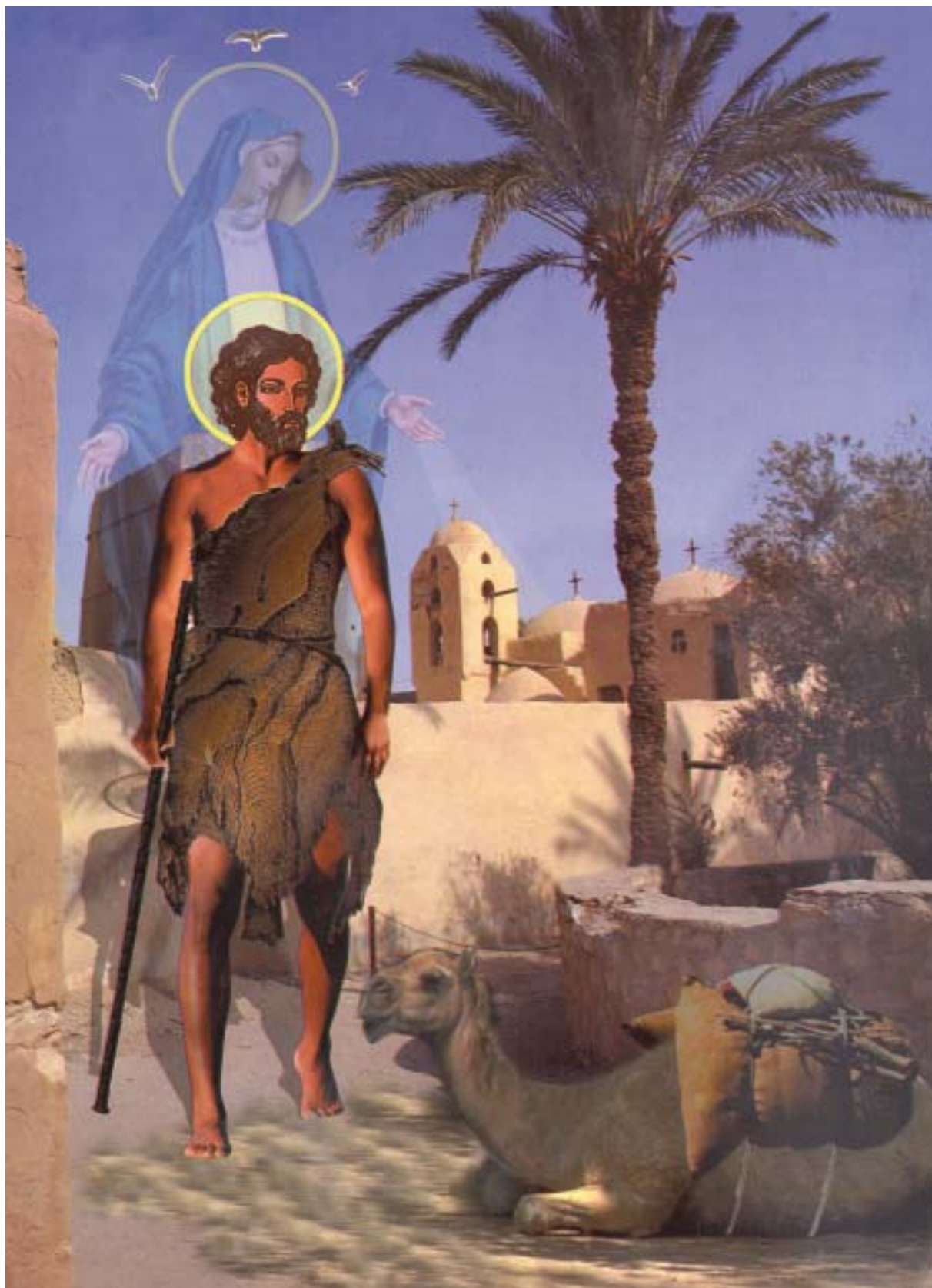
fasted and prayed for 40 years and then passed away and was buried by St Zosimas with the help of a lion.

Many would have thought that there was no hope in St Mary's life and never even offered to help her in her time of need. We must remember when we feel all alone and when we are at the lowest point in our lives, we should call out to the Lord our God for the help and strength that we yearn for.

***“I will restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast. (1 Peter 5:10)”***

God will never reject anyone who calls out to His name, and will always immerse us in His Holy Compassion and Love.

***“I, even I, am He who comforts you. (Isaiah 51:12)”***



*Anweis, "Beholder of God."*