

62- Bai 62 The Real ST. Nick (Story)



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At Christmas, children wait for St. Nicholas to bring gifts down the **chimney**. But it's not just a story. St. Nicholas was a real person.

A long time ago, a man named Marcus **occupied** a house with his family. He was not **modest**. He always told everybody he was the strongest man in the **province**.

He worked hard, but he could barely **sustain** his family. He wanted to save money and **prosper**. Still, he could never earn a **penny** more than he needed. One day, Marcus made an agreement with a **blacksmith**. The blacksmith had a lot of work to do. But he couldn't do it all by himself. Marcus wanted to help him **forge iron**. The blacksmith agreed to **compensate** him with a lot of money.

In the same town, there was a man named Nicholas. At an early age, Nicholas started **preaching**. But he also believed that he should be **humble** and **charitable**. He learned that helping people gave him even more **satisfaction** than preaching.

One day, Nicholas **encountered** Marcus. Marcus told Nicholas about his agreement with the blacksmith. "I worked hard for him," Marcus said, "but a problem **arose**. Even though I worked for him, he didn't pay me."

Nicholas wanted to help Marcus. That night, he went back to Marcus's house. He brought a bag of gold. It **exceeded** the amount that Marcus needed. Nicholas climbed up a **ladder** and dropped the bag of gold down the chimney. Marcus thanked his **benefactor**.

Soon, people found out about Nicholas's gift. He became well known and loved. Even today, people still give secret gifts to children. And we say they are from St. Nicholas.