

# THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(31) Freed by a Glance

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



In the days of King [Totila](#), the Arian heretic Zalla had been cruelly persecuting devout Catholics everywhere in the region. No monk or cleric who fell into his hands ever escaped alive. One day he was brutally lashing a poor farmer whose money he was after. Unable to bear the torture any longer, the penniless farmer in desperation cried, “All my money is with Benedict!” The poor man had hoped that this would end his plight, but instead Zalla bound his hands and forced him to lead the way to Benedict. As they approached the monastery, they saw Benedict sitting at the entrance of the monastery reading. Zalla imagined he would be able to intimidate the abbot as easily as he had all others. He shouted at Benedict, “Get up! Do you hear? Get up and give me the money this man left with you!” At the sound of the angry voice, Benedict looked up and saw the angry [Goth](#) and his bound captive. The moment the holy man looked at the cords binding the poor farmer’s hands, the ropes were loosed and fell to the ground. Astounded by this show of power, Zalla fell to his knees and begged Benedict to pray for him. He instructed his monks to take Zalla inside for food and drink. Later Benedict counseled Zalla to give up his cruel ways. Zalla left thoroughly humbled and made no more demands on the poor farmer who had been freed by

just a glance from the holy man of God.

Windows—*St. Benedict Church, Subiaco, Arkansas, USA*

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