

Obedience, St John the Short

Objectives:

- Learn the story of St John the Short
- Understand and assimilate his obedience

Lesson:

- St. John the short was born in upper Egypt to a God –fearing parents.
- At the age of 18, he went to Abba Ammoes and asked him to accept him as a disciple
- At first Abba Ammoes refused telling him that it's a hard life full of fasting and prayers, he then prayed and an angel appeared telling him to accept St. John.
- One day Abba Ammoes decided to test St. John by kicking him out saying: "I can't live with you".
- Abba John stayed outside for seven days showing his loyalty, while Abba Ammoes went outside and hit him.
- He was tested again when his teacher asked him to take a dry branch and water it. Without hesitation, questioning or arguing, he obeyed.
- He had to walk 12 miles each way, and it took three years of persistent watering and the branch grew and became a fruiting tree. Abba Ammoes picked some of the fruit and took to the elders saying: "Take, eat from the fruit of obedience".
- Abba John took care of his sick teacher for 12 years with no complaints. On his death bed, Abba Ammoes gathered the elders and took St. John's hand and said: "take care of this one for he is an angel and not human".
- The barbarians invaded the wilderness of Shiheet, so Abba John left for the mountain of St. Anthony at Klyasma. Why do you think he fled?
 - He didn't flee out of fear, as he said: "lest a Barbarian comes to kill me and go to hell on my account, I don't want to be at peace and another in torture on my account. He is my brother in the human image".
- When the end of his life neared, God sent Abba Macarius the Great and Abba Anthony to comfort St. John. Abba John sent his disciple away, but when he came back he saw a cloud of angels surrounding St. John's soul.