



**Orthodox Church of the
Entrance of the Theotokos
into the Temple**

306 W. Main Street Emmitsburg,
MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

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Vehicles of Christ
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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

One of the tragedies of today's society is the growth in self-centeredness. Society at large tells you to love yourself the way you are, prioritize yourself over others, have a "me" day, or some other nonsense. Today's gospel reading teaches us something different.

In today's gospel reading, when people heard that Christ had departed into a desert place, multitudes flocked to Him. By this time, He was known for His preaching as well as His ability to heal sicknesses and diseases. The gospel does not state the reasons why the multitudes followed Him into the desert place, but since there were five thousand men along with women and children, we can assume that there were a variety of reasons. Some I'm sure were sick and diseased or had family and friends who were sick and diseased and went to Christ for a healing. Perhaps some believed in Him as the Messiah, the Christ, and for this reason alone went to follow Him. Some might have followed Him due to mere curiosity, similar to when I watch a TV show which I heard

had good reviews. Whatever their reasons were, when Christ saw them, before the healings and miracles occurred, the gospel makes a point to say that He first felt compassion for them. How many of us when we see someone in need first have compassion for them? When we see a beggar on the street, are we first moved with compassion, or are we first moved to judgment, perhaps viewing them as likely drug addicts who deserve to be homeless? Is compassion our first and primary reaction, or is judgment? As Christ has compassion for us, so must we have compassion for others.

When the disciples asked Jesus to send the multitudes away so that they could go into the villages to eat, Christ tells his disciples not to send them away but rather give them something to eat. All they had were five loaves of bread and two fish, not nearly enough to feed 5,000 men along with women and children. Yet after Christ blessed the food, as the disciples were distributing it out to the multitude, Christ miraculously multiplied the food so that all ate and were filled, with 12 baskets of food remaining. Christ used His disciples to bring His miracle to the multitudes. We are called to be disciples of Christ. We can be a means of bringing Christ to those we encounter, just as the disciples were a means of bringing Christ's miracle to the multitudes.

Let us keep two things in mind the next time we encounter someone in need. First, we must have compassion for them, as Christ had compassion for the multitudes. And second, we must remember that as disciples of Christ, He may use us as vehicles of bringing Himself to those who are in need.

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