



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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**For Where your Treasure Is ...
November 30, 2025**

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Pentecost 25. 11/30/2025. Entrance Church

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)

The teaching from St. Luke's Gospel assume we know this phrase. It is not included in today's lesson, but it is in the version from the Gospel of St. Matthew. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The question is: what propels us? What makes us move forward? Self-service or service for others?

Last week we heard our Lord's parable of the Good Samaritan. Priest and Levite had good reasons not to help the dying man on the side of the road. There was never any doubt of it. But the parable is told as a metaphor about life in the Kingdom. Remember, the lawyer asked what was necessary for obtaining eternal life? Jesus answered with the central teaching of the Jewish faith, the Shema: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength, and your neighbor as yourself."

But the Lawyer wanted a detailed explanation, seeking to show Jesus that he was after all a good and reasonable person, St. Luke says, seeking to justify himself to God, he wants to know that his behavior is sufficient. "Who is my neighbor," he asks. In other words, define who I should help and who I need not help to inherit life, because I think, Jesus, that I am actually doing fine! Jesus turns the table on him. His only question after he tells the parable is, "Whom do you think showed himself to be neighbor to the man in need?" The answer was clear: The one who showed mercy.

This is the same message in today's lesson, isn't it? Where is your treasure? In the bank? In your political ideology? Finding justification for your actions throughout life? Finding justification for our culture? Making ourselves great? Or great again? Is it in security? Enough to live on? Is it in having what you want, and preserving it lest other people, perchance those who come into our country from repressive lands take it from you? It is in success? Being admired by others? Are these the treasures that fill you barns? Or, is it in a heart that has compassion on others, like the Samaritan? Like the one who did not quibble about limitations of his mercy?

Of all the beatitudes, the fifth is perhaps my favorite: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

There can be no limitation on mercy. Even as straightforward a businessman as Andrew Carnegie was, head of the steel industry in Pittsburgh, was known to say that "no man should die rich." And rich he was, the richest man in the world at the time; he gave it all away to help people, to establish institutions that help people to this day in Pittsburgh.

So where is your treasure? In Christ, or somewhere else? Are you driven by self service or by mercy for others, for those in need, for the least of your brethren?

Let us not be like the rich man in the today's parable, lest we too be caught by surprise with our souls about to be taken unawares. Let us be merciful, like Christ, lay of treasures in heaven!

Fr. Elias

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