



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street Emmitsburg,
MD 21727

<http://EntranceMission.org>

717-817-0084

The V. Rev. Elias Yelovich,
Rector

The Rev. Anthony Duvall,
Assistant

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant August 24, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Parable of the unmerciful servant.

- Gratitude leads to one's decision to forgive. Forgiveness and its corresponding empathy, compassion leads to one's willingness to share.
- Love shown is the only way one learns to love in return.
- There are times when the lesson we hear on a Sunday morning require no interpretation.
 - A great debt is forgiven to a King's servant by the King, but that servant refuses to forgive another servant a much lessor debt
- The King's anger is just.
- We don't like to see such selfish behavior.
 - I think about how Matushka and I raised our children
 - Sure, there were requirements. Duties. Chores.
 - We guided their behavior with certain discussions and books
 - But above all, we wanted them to be unselfish. To share what we had given them with their siblings. And when then didn't, that's when the most serious punishments were delivered. Usually only when they exhibited selfishness or greed at the expense of others.

- St. John in his first epistle observed, “We love because He first loved us.”
- Everything we are. Life itself. The air we breathe. The water we drink. The food we eat. All of it comes from God’s loving hand.
- We have left His way, and yet He calls us back and offers forgiveness so that in our repentance, we can be reconciled to Him
- How wicked it is if we take for ourselves, but don’t share.
- How wicked it is if we look to our own salvation, but don’t care whether or not others are saved.
- How wicked it is if we take comfort in our own well-being, but don’t concern ourselves with others who have fallen: in prison, the sick, the suffering.
- Our gratitude for the love and compassion God shows us is the only way we can and will have compassion for others around us.
- I think the primary of all sins in our overly wealthy culture is selfishness. We take, we get, we receive and want more for ourselves. Forget about the poor, the fallen, those in hospice, in prison; those less fortunate.
- But this parable tells us clearly: the King is angry at our behavior when we do not forgive as we have been forgiven; when we do not share what He has given us freely
- And Brothers and Sisters, in the words of St. Paul: It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the Living God!
- Let us give as we have been given; let us forgive as we have been forgiven; let us show the same compassion to others that has been shown to us. This, and nothing less, is the way of Orthodox Christianity!

Fr. Elias

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