



## Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

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***Nevertheless!***  
**October 11, 2020**

**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Christ is in our midst! He is and every shall be!**

*But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." (Luke 5: 5)*

This little verse from our Gospel lesson on Sunday (Luke 5:1-11) contains one of the most important words in our English language – the word, ***nevertheless***. St. Luke tells us that at the very beginning of His ministry as He calls His disciples to follow Him, our Lord preached from the boat off the shore of Lake Galilee and then tells His disciples to cast off and put out their nets for a catch. This is remarkable, because the disciples, specifically Peter who was evidently the head of his small band of fishermen, told the Lord that they had been out all night trying to make a catch and that they had had no luck at all. Peter was after all an experienced fisherman, and with the others made his living at it. He knew that the fish were not gathering at that time to be caught in his nets. But he says that most remarkable of all words, ***nevertheless!*** He says, "Master, we

have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless**, at Your word, I will let down the net."

**Nevertheless.** Lord, I know what I am doing and what is right for me and for my life. I need to make a living, and I know how to do that. I work hard. I try to see to the proper upbringing of my children. I save money, buy insurance, drive a car and get to work. I try to see that all is provided for. And you want what? You want me to feed the hungry? You want me to visit the sick? You want me to pray for my enemies and turn the other cheek for those who bully and mistreat me so that they can continue to do that? You want me to seek the good of my neighbor, to think about their well-being? You say I should be merciful to those who wrong me? You say I should mourn for those who are afflicted, abused, mistreated and who succumb to the darkness of suffering and death? You want me to befriend the sinner, to look beyond what I would do for the welfare of myself and my family? I have tried all of these things, Master, and it seems as if it is all in vain! Nothing seems to change. **Nevertheless**, I will do as you say! I will show mercy! I will refuse to judge the sinner, even though I will always condemn the sin and seek ways to help those bound by it to be released! I will seek the good of my neighbor and seek ways to help them and to keep them safe! I will do as you say! I will do as St. Peter did! Even though I think I know better, I will **nevertheless**, do as YOU say and as YOU did and as YOU bid me to do! I will seek to be YOURS and to be one with YOU. **Nevertheless**, I will do as YOU bid me to do.

**Nevertheless.** Brothers and Sisters, let us be the people of the great **nevertheless**! Let us not merely do as our human wills tell us to do. Instead, let us do as St. Peter did, casting aside our human will to follow the will of the Master. Let us be the people of the great alternative, the people who say and who practice the most important of all words, the word **nevertheless**!

Fr. Elias

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