

EPIPHANIUS (CONT'D)  
Your uncle is a wise man and, he  
sees something in you.

070 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
But what if I miss you and Mother?

071 EPIPHANIUS  
You will. And we'll miss you, too.  
But you'll come home to visit. It's  
not forever, Nicholas...

072 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
(resigned)  
So... When must I leave?

073 EPIPHANIUS  
That's my boy. We'll prepare your  
things this week. (tousling his  
hair)  
Don't look so glum! God is  
nurturing your faith. He has a plan  
for you. Trust in Him, okay?

074 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
Yes, Father. I will.

FADE TO TRANSITION MUSIC.

8 EXT. MONASTERY - COURTYARD - MORNING

TRANSITION MUSIC: MONKS CHANTING IN GREEK.

DISTANT MONASTERY BELLS RINGING. BIRDS CHIRP.

075 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
(murmuring)  
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven...

UNCLE NICHOLAS APPROACHES. HE SIGHS.

**START >>>**

076 **UNCLE**  
Still studying, little scholar?  
It's hard to believe it's already  
been six months since you arrived  
at the monastery. Are you trying to  
get all your reading in before  
heading home to see your parents  
tomorrow?

077 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
Yes, Uncle! I am reading the  
Beatitudes.  
(MORE)

YOUNG NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
They fill my mind with questions  
about how others feel, and make me  
want to help them.

WALLA: VOICES AND THE CREAK OF GATES OPENING IN  
THE DISTANCE. (ADDENDUM 1-A)

078 YOUNG NICHOLAS (CONT'D)  
Look! People are always coming here  
for help. Sick, poor, desperate...

079 **UNCLE**  
The world is full of people in  
need, Nicholas.

080 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
Why are some born rich and others  
poor? If God loves us all... why is  
there poverty?

081 **UNCLE**  
A difficult question with no simple  
answer. Let me sit beside you,  
under this beautiful tree and I'll  
try to explain...

Uncle sits beside Young Nicholas.

THE BENCH CREAKS.

082 **UNCLE** (CONT'D)  
Wealth, Nicholas, is not merely  
something we possess. It is a gift,  
a blessing from God, entrusted to  
us... Those who are blessed with  
abundance bear a greater  
responsibility to care for those in  
need.

083 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
Why?

084 **UNCLE**  
Think of it this way, Nicholas:  
everything we have comes from God.  
And as our Lord Jesus taught, "*From  
everyone to whom much has been  
given, much will be required; and  
from the one to whom much has been  
entrusted, even more will be  
demanded...*"

085 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
So... having more isn't for me...  
it's for others.

086 **UNCLE**  
Exactly.

087 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
When I grow up, I'll be famous for  
giving the poor all that they need.

088 **UNCLE**  
Giving is always good. But it's  
even more powerful when we give in  
humble secret.

089 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
In secret?

090 **UNCLE**  
Jesus Himself taught us this. He  
said: "*When you give alms, your  
left hand must not know what your  
right is doing; your almsgiving  
must be secret, and your Father who  
sees all that is done in secret  
will reward you.*"

A GENTLE BREEZE MOVES THE TREES.

091 **UNCLE** (CONT'D)  
True charity seeks no recognition.  
It comes from seeing Christ in the  
one who suffers. No boasting, no  
seeking praise. Just the quiet joy  
of helping another.

092 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
So, it's not about showing off.

093 **UNCLE**  
Yes. Now, I want you to understand  
this for yourself, Nicholas.

094 YOUNG NICHOLAS  
How?

095 **UNCLE**  
That's for you to discover. Open  
your eyes to those who suffer, and  
let God open your heart.

**<<< END**

UNCLE NICHOLAS STANDS UP.