

and marries another woman, commits adultery with that second woman. Likewise, a woman who leaves her own husband and marries another becomes an adulteress."

13-16. And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them. How great is the faith of the multitude, who believed that Christ would bless those brought to Him just by laying His hands on them. But the disciples thought that it was beneath Christ's dignity to have children brought to Him, and they tried to stop those who were approaching. What does Christ do? To teach them to have more humble thoughts, and to trample down worldly arrogance, He not only receives the children, but He gathers them up in His arms. He shows that He welcomes those who are guileless by saying, "for of such is the kingdom of God." See that He did not say that the kingdom is "of these", but "of such as these"; that is to say, the kingdom of God belongs to those who by labor and struggle have acquired that guilelessness which little children have by nature. For a little child does not envy or bear grudges, and even when he has been disciplined by his mother, he does not stand off aloof from her. But even if she is wearing rags, he would rather have her than a queen. Likewise he who lives a virtuous life holds nothing in higher honor than he does his Mother, who is the Church, not even pleasure who reigns as queen over so many. Therefore Christ gathers up in His arms all such as these, saying to them, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden."³ And He blesses them, saying, "Come, ye blessed of My Father."⁴ The kingdom of God is both the preaching and the promise of good things, Christ is here saying. Therefore whoever accepts the preaching of God as a little child, that is, without any doubts or unbelief, enters into the kingdom of God, and into

³ Mt. 11:28

⁴ Mt. 25:34

those good things which he has even now accepted by faith.

17-22. And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and he knelt before Him, and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but One, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments? Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, and whatsoever thou hast, sell and give it to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had many possessions. Some accuse this young man of being underhanded and cunning, testing the Lord. But it is not so. He loved riches, but he was not a tempter. Hear what the evangelist says: "Then Jesus beholding him, loved him." Why does Jesus say in reply to him, "There is none good but One"? Because the young man had approached Jesus as if Jesus were only a man, and only one among many teachers. This is what Christ is saying: If you call Me good thinking that I am a teacher, I say that no man is good by comparison to God. But if you call Me good thinking that I am God, why then do you call Me Teacher? By these words Christ wished to draw the young man up to a higher understanding, so that he would recognize Jesus as God. But Jesus also said this to correct something else. He wanted to teach him that when we speak with some one, we should not speak words of flattery. Instead, understanding that God is the root and source of all goodness, we should give honor to Him alone. I marvel at this young man; for all the others who approached the Lord did so to obtain healing from diseases, but he came seeking to inherit eternal life, although he was suffering from the most terrible of passions, the love of money. Because of this, when he heard the words, "Go thy way, and whatsoever thou hast, sell and give it to the poor," he went away grieved. See that the Lord did not say, "Go thy way, and whatsoever thou hast, sell it off and give it away a little at a time," but