

nature. It reduces to this: is God able not to be God? See how ridiculous the question is.

28-31. Then Peter began to say unto Him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed Thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the Gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last first. Although Peter left but a few things, here he calls them "all", that is, everything. For even a few things create a strong bond of attachment. Therefore blessed is he who leaves even his few things. Although Peter alone asked the question, the Lord gives a universal answer, saying, "Every one who has left wife or father." The Lord said these things, not so that we would leave our fathers helpless, or divorce our wives, but to teach us to put piety towards God before any relationship of flesh. Because the proclamation of the Gospel had kindled war, and fathers were about to betray their own children on account of piety, the Lord says, "Whosoever shall leave kinships of the flesh, and in general, everything of the flesh, for the Gospel's sake, shall receive a hundredfold in this age, and in the age to come, eternal life." So then, will he receive a hundred wives? Yes, he will, and never mind the jeers of that accursed Julian.¹² Tell me, what does a wife do to serve the needs of her husband in his house? She takes complete care of her husband's meals and clothes, so that he need not give any thought to these things. The same is true of the apostles: see how many women there were who took care of their food and clothing, and served them so that the apostles gave no thought to anything but the Word and the teaching. Likewise, the apostles had many fathers and mothers, meaning all those who had love and affection for the apostles; and Peter, who left one house, later had all the houses of his disciples as his own. And to this day, he has glorious houses all over the earth: temples bearing his name. But, what is more important, the saints shall

¹² Julian the Apostate, nephew of St. Constantine the Great, and Emperor from 361 to 363 A.D., abandoned Christianity and attempted to restore pagan religion to the Empire.

inherit all these things "with persecutions", that is, they will be persecuted and afflicted, not taking their ease. Therefore, though seeming to be last in this world because of persecutions and afflictions, they will be first because of their hope in God. But the Pharisees, who held the first place, became last, while those who left all and followed Christ became first.

32-34. And they were on the road going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And He took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto Him, saying, Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem: and the Son of Man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn Him to death, and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles: and they shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon Him, and shall kill Him: and the third day He shall rise again. Why does He foretell the things that will happen to Him? He does this to prepare and to calm the minds of the disciples, so that having heard of these things beforehand they would more easily endure them, and not be overwhelmed all at once in their anguish. He also foretold these things so that they would know that He suffered them of His own will. For although He knows these things beforehand, and is able to flee from them, He does not do so, and thus He makes it abundantly clear that He gives Himself over to His sufferings willingly. The Lord takes the disciples aside privately, to speak with them alone. For His Passion is a mystery to be revealed only to those closest to Him. And this is why on the road He leads the way before them all, wanting to separate His disciples from the rest of the crowd. But also, by leading the way, He shows that He hastens to His Passion, and does not evade His death which is for our salvation. And although He lists all these sorrowful things that will happen, yet there is one consolation, that He will rise on the third day.

35-39. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto Him, saying, Master, we want that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall ask. And He said unto them, What do ye want that I should do for you? They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in Thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the