

Then said one unto Him,
Lord, are there few that be saved?
And He said unto them,

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able

Luke 13:24

[...] **N**OT KNOWING THAT BETTER IS FAITH, with no other roof but the sky to cover it, than impiety rolling in wealth, and that three gathered together in the Name of the Lord count for more with God than tens of thousands of those who deny the Godhead. Would you prefer the whole of the Canaanites to Abraham alone? or the men of Sodom to Lot? or the Midianites to Moses – when each of these was a pilgrim and a stranger? How do the three hundred men with Gideon, who bravely lapped, compare with the thousands who were put to flight? Or the servants of Abraham, who scarcely exceeded them in number, with the many kings and the army of tens of thousands whom, few as they were, they overtook and defeated? Or how do you understand the passage that *though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved*? And again, *I have left Me seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to Baal*? This is not the case; it is not? God has not taken pleasure in numbers.

Thou countest tens of thousands, God counts those who are in a state of salvation; thou countest the dust which is without number, I the vessels of election. For nothing is so magnificent in God's sight as pure doctrine, and a soul perfect in all the dogmas of the truth. – For there is nothing worthy of Him Who made all things, of Him by Whom are all things, and for Whom are all things, so that it can be given or offered to God: not merely [*is*] the handiwork or means of any individual [*not worthy of Him*], but even if we wished to honor Him, by uniting together all the property and handiwork of all mankind.

St Gregory the Theologian, Oration XLII, "The Last Farewell,"
NPNE, Second Series, Vol. X, p. 388

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

SEPTEMBER 16–22, 2013

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION MONASTERY Brookline, MA www.htmp.org