

preferment to James and John themselves. On the same journey, apparently, as they drew near to the city, Luke states that Jesus spoke the parable of the Pounds to his disciples, because "they supposed that the kingdom of God was immediately to appear". Besides showing that it was only the kingly idea which then possessed their minds, these passages prove that it was a purely temporal kingdom which they supposed he would set up, and of which they thought he would declare himself king.

According to John XII. 16, it was not till after he was glorified that his disciples recognized how he fulfilled, or specially realized, the truths and principles of the ancient Scriptures. "These things understood not his disciples at the first", says John, referring to the unique fulfilment of Zechariah IX. 9 by the triumphal entry into Jerusalem; "but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him". From this assertion we may safely infer, that the conception of Jesus as the suffering Messiah was developed by the Evangelists and Apostles through reflection on prophetic passages expressive of suffering, particularly such passages as the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah, which is pre-eminently the passion-chapter of the Old Testament; for, if his disciples could not see how he had fulfilled a truly Messianic passage, such as Zechariah IX. 9, till after