

truth—then will give Him single service.

Example:—A man cannot be slave of two masters. May try to, but one will be supreme. Cannot serve God and mammon (wealth) at same time. Some have tried but failed. Examples:—

Israelites to serve God and Baal. (1 Kings xviii. 21.)

Judas—Christ's disciple and greedy of gain.

Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts v. 3, 4.)

But as God's servant need not be anxious. Why? Because:—

1. He is Master—bound to provide. (25.)
2. He cares for lower animals. (25.)
3. He cares for flowers and grass. (28.)
4. We can do nothing without Him. (27.)
5. He is our Father and loves us.

Instances of God's care:—

1. Lower animals spared. (Ex. ix. 20.)
2. Grass and flowers blessed. (Deut. xxviii. 11.)
3. Righteous Noah saved. (Gen. vi. 18.)
4. Elisha's life preserved. (2 Kings vi. 16.)
5. Hezekiah restored to health. (2 Kings xx. 5.)

Therefore all must seek first God's Kingdom, and then may trust and not be afraid. Leave to-morrow's cares to to-morrow.

NOTES. 21. *Rust*, because money often buried in earth in eastern countries.

25. *Take no thought*, i.e. be not over-anxious.

26. *Fowls*. Old English for birds.

28. *Lilies*. Probably anemones.

30. *Oven*. Made of clay, often heated with grass.

NO. 13. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (VI.).

To read—*St. Matthew vii. 1-14.*

I. CHARITY IN JUDGING. (1-5.)
Not to judge, i.e., hastily, unkindly. Sometimes must judge others, as in a

school, court of justice, etc. But must always be most careful in judging. Why? Because liable to make mistakes—only see part—cannot tell motives. God is perfect Judge because knows all—never makes mistakes.

Harsh judgment recoils on ourselves—must do to others as would they should do to us—not look out for moles or specks, i.e., little sins in others, but watch to pull out beams, i.e., great sins, in ourselves. *Example*. David's brother Eliab quick to reprove him (1 Sam. xvii. 28), St. James and St. John to rebuke man who did not follow them.

II. VARIOUS CHARGES. (1) *Holiness* (verse 6). St. Paul bids "beware of dogs, evilworkers." (Philip. iii. 2.) God's truth like pearls of great price (St. Matt. xiii. 45), because pure, precious, lasting—must be guarded carefully. Verse is example of a Hebrew stanza of four lines—first and last go together—second and third—"they turn" is the dogs. (2) *Prayer* (7-12). Three degrees—daily *asking* with lips in public or private prayer—always *seeking* with whole heart—special *knocking* at special times. Prayer always heard if done in right way. Must have (a) *humble spirit*, like woman of Cana (ch. xv. 27); (b) *sense of need*, like father of lunatic boy (St. Luke ix. 38); (c) *subjection to God's will*, like Christ at Gethsemane; (d) *faith* in God to hear and answer (St. Matt. xvii. 21). Examples of prayer heard—

Hannah praying for a son.

Elisha that his servant's eyes might be opened. (2 Kings vi. 17.)

The Church for St. Peter's deliverance. (Acts xii. 5.)

Why does God answer? Picture of family meal—father at head of table—children around—they ask for food—does he refuse them—give them stones? Greatest pleasure to supply