

# The Young Churchman

"Feed my Lambs."

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## THE CHURCH SCHOLAR'S NOTES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

### The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

CHAP. VII.

Ver. 1. *Judge not.*] 'Condemn not other men. However much they may be deceived, think that they nevertheless have some apparent reasons which to themselves seem to justify what they say and do.—Moreover—reflect that every man is not constituted in mind and body precisely as you are.—God has caused a variety to exist among men.—You are not to expect to establish yourself as the standard to which they shall all conform.'—This precept of our Lord forbids a habit of censoriousness:—it does not refer to judgments pronounced by competent authority:—these, we know from other passages of Holy Scripture, are lawful and often very necessary.

—*that ye be not judged.*] 'If you hope that God will be merciful unto you at the last great day—be merciful to others:—on no principle of justice can you expect merciful treatment at the hands of God or men, —if a spirit of cruel harshness characterize your words and deeds.'

Ver. 3. *Why beholdest thou the mote.*] "Mote" = "a dry particle of straw or wood."  
—*but considerest not the beam.*] "Beam" = "a massive piece of timber."

Ver. 5. *Hypocrite!*] 'Pretender!—pretender to a superiority which you do not possess.'

—*first cast out the beam out of thine own eye.*] The contrast is between "mote" and "beam"—the "mote" denoting some fault which in itself perhaps is trivial,—but which

to you seems very great, because you observe it in another person;—the "beam" being some really great fault in yourself, which you do not notice, because your mind is so taken up with condemning the defects which you imagine that you perceive in your brethren. —*Each private Christian should be especially solicitous about the faults in his own character. The Holy Spirit is given to each one of us to enable us to correct these; and in proportion as we correct them, we are likely to have an influence for good on our fellow-men.*

Ver. 6. *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs.*] When we have discovered by experience that the peculiar truths which the Church founded by our Lord preserves, are habitually vilified in any quarter, we are not to exhibit them there any more, to be subjected to indignity.—Moreover, we should recollect that we wittingly bring men into greater condemnation, when we offer a truth to them which we know beforehand they will not simply reject, but speak against;—for a man suffers damage in his soul when he speaks against truth.—It is enough for the private Christian, in such a case, to stand on the defensive—to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh him a reason of the hope that is in him, with meekness and fear." 1 Pet. iii. 15.—*There is to be a judiciousness in the inculcation even of truth.*

Ver. 7. *Knock and it shall be opened unto you.*] Our Lord's address is to a mixed assembly. He encourages all to enter the Church which he is about to found.—This verse is embodied in the prayer which is used when additions are made now to that Church amongst us.—"So give now unto us that ask; let us that seek, find; open the gate unto us that knock":—where the "us"