

# 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. VI.—CONTINUED.

Ver. 16. *Of a sad countenance.*] 'Put not on artificially any appearances of sorrow or penitence which do not of themselves become impressed upon you.'

— *They disfigure their faces.*] They allow their beard and hair to grow, and perform not the ablutions which cleanliness requires.'

Ver. 17. *Thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head.*] 'Attend to your outer person as usual,—according to the customs of the country in which you live.'—Fasting is simply a symbol of real sorrow for sin in the heart. If this feeling exist, the effect produced on the life thereby will be to the all-seeing eye of God, a sufficient proof of its reality—without the addition of squalidness about the person which—when it can be avoided—must be offensive to God and His holy angels—even as it is to men.

Ver. 18. *Shall reward thee openly.*—'The advantages to be gained by strictly regulating the propensities of your nature will—according to the arrangements of God—be an increased strength of mind and a clearness of conception in respect to the sublime intellectual and spiritual truths which the religion of your Lord discloses, and a more real fondness for them. This healthy condition of your soul and spirit will be recognized by your fellow-men,—who will feel themselves benefitted by your example and influence.'

Ver. 19. *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.*] 'Understand rightly the possessions which you have—or which you may have the power of acquiring. Value them solely as means by which you may do good and gain good—and suffer not your thoughts to gloat over them as things in themselves precious.'

Ver. 20. *Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.*] It is most clearly revealed that every good deed and act of charity done by the man who has been grafted into the Body of Christ, shall be rewarded. "The son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matt. xvi. 27.) "Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." (Eph. vi 8.—) Hence however costly good deeds and acts of charity may have been—however much they may have diminished earthly accumulations—they have nevertheless—under the economy of the religion of our Lord—secured incalculable and eternal gain.

Ver. 20. *There will your hearts be also.*] Daily experience proves men to be so constituted that, if the mere possession of wealth, irrespective of the good uses to which it may be put, become a passion in any one—every other feeling is gradually absorbed in it:—the heart—the whole man—becomes affected thereby injuriously—at last, fatally.—On the other hand—by looking at wealth, as simply a means of doing good and gaining good,—and acting on that conviction—the heart—the whole man—is influenced beneficially—is rendered generous and sympathetic, even as God designed the expectant heirs of heaven to be.

Ver. 22. *If thine eye be single.*—'Be sound—not diseased.'