

CHAPEL, February 6, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: 7 verses, Matthew VII

So far in this Sermon on the Mount we see that Jesus is dealing with things in their spiritual sense. <sup>These</sup> ~~This~~ verse we have just read ~~does~~ not mean that one must not pass judgment on certain things. When teachers give you an examination, that, in a sense is passing judgment; when a person is taken into court and the judge pronounces a sentence, that, again, is passing judgment on a fellowman. Jesus is not talking about things of this kind. This is so often misinterpreted. We see a person do a certain thing and do not know just what is back of the act, do not know what is in the heart and soul of the person, and yet we pass judgment on him. That is the kind of thing Jesus is talking to us about in this lesson.

Then He gives us another lesson: First, look into your own heart and see that your motive is right. Maybe the person on whom you are passing judgment has a small fault while your whole life is wrong. "Or why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Jesus wanted to teach in this lesson that one must get his own heart right.

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." There are people whose lives, to all appearances, are of such nature that they do not appreciate spiritual values. To such people you can be of very little service unless you can in some way help them to change the motive power back of their lives. It is this, in part, that the churches, Y. W.'s, <sup>and the</sup> colleges are trying to do; they are striving to help people get the right kind of motive power in their lives. There are people in this world who appear to have no knowledge of the inner workings of things spiritual, or such a limited

knowledge that they do not appreciate the truly worthwhile things of life. Those are the people Jesus is talking about. It is perfectly useless to try to give to those people things of spiritual value until they themselves are persuaded in some way to change their attitude. They will "trample them under feet" -- go off and make fun of you, think you are just a babbler, or say all manner of evil against you falsely. A teacher I had in the University use to say that some people are damned by their environment. They have come up in an environment that keeps them from appreciating the worthwhile things of life. There's no need of trying to get them to see holy things, until they have a different background, and that 's a difficult thing to do--helping a person change his entire outlook. That's probably where the church and Christian workers have their most difficult task; in giving such persons a background that will enable them to appreciate the truly worthwhile.