

DO NOT CAST YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE...

Intro: It occurs to me that sometimes we are too hard on the people around us...and sometimes we are too easy on them. On the one hand, it is easy to be confident that we are righteous and others are sinners. Because of this we may almost without thinking adopt a holier-than-thou attitude that views judges others without mercy and with contempt. Jesus addressed this problem in the first part of Mt. 7.

On the other hand, we may be too easy on others. Because of love for certain people or special connections that we have with them, we may simply excuse and forgive their infidelity, blind to the reality that they are not going to hear what God's word says. Failing to see the preciousness of the truth that we hold and the importance of using our time and efforts wisely we may seek to teach the same unwilling people again and again. We become like a farmer trying to sledge-hammer his corn-seed into limestone hoping to make a crop on that which will never produce one!

Therefore, Jesus sets forth the need to be realistic and discriminating with the gospel. Let's study together Mt. 6:6.

GIVE NOT...LEST THEY TURN AND TEAR YOU TO PIECES

If the first emphasizes the need not to be too hard on others, judgmental and critical, this exhortation offers the corresponding and balancing idea. Let's not be naive & indiscriminating in our view of others. Give not that which is holy to the dogs, and do not throw pearls before swine.

Dogs--not pets, but scurrilous mangy semi-wild hounds that roamed the streets, tongues hanging out, howling, snarling, fighting, traveling in packs, ugly burrs clinging to their filthy coats, foraging in every corner for food. (No wonder when the Jews wanted to say the meanest thing they could think of about a Gentile, they called them "dogs".)

Do not throw holy things--Is Jesus thinking of things like the shewbread of the temple? Would one think of taking this bread designated for the priests and that reminds them of the special fellowship Israel had with God, and give it to dogs that would fight over it and fail to see any meaning in it at all?

Swine--Unclean under the law, to eat their flesh an abomination, therefore a repulsive animal to the Jew.

Pearls--Margaritas, a priceless pearl of the day harvested from the Persian Gulf. (By the way, if your name is Margaret or Rita, that where your name came from). Now would one think of throwing pan full of these to the pigs as if it were food and they begin to attempt to gobble them up and then wildly turn on you when they realize they are not food to eat, and trample the pearls into the ground?

What then is the message of these graphic pictures?

We possess something that is holy and valuable. That thing is, of course, the precious truths of God, the kingdom itself. Mt. 13:46

There are those who do not appreciate the value of spiritual things. 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:6-8.

One proves himself to be unworthy of the riches of the gospel by his violent rejection of them and his opposition to those who preach. Cf. Ac. 13:44-52. We must teach patiently (2 Tim. 2:26) and be "longsuffering" (2 Tim. 4:2-3). Yet when the teacher of truth suffers personal attacks for preaching the truth his audience is unworthy of the truth they are hearing!

When one shows animosity toward the truth, it is best to leave him alone and look for others that are willing to learn! Cf. Mt. 15:12-14 Some people oppose the truth out of ignorance; some out of meanness! If it is clear that one understands the word yet rebels against it, he is not good!

To think that every person will accept the truth if we present it "the right way" is naive and indiscriminating. We are not at liberty to change the gospel to suit those whose sin, pride, and prejudice bar them from obedience.

Conclusion: Are you aware of the realities of the gospel? Are you wasting your time and effort trying to convert the unconvertable? Are you be inclined to blame the teacher of truth for the rejection of the gospel by others? If so, then think again. God's word is designed to reach a certain kind of person that God has chosen. To change it is to take from God his right to choose who is saved and who is not!

Are you like the dogs and swine who have no appreciation for the beauty or value of truth, if so we are saddened, for there is nothing more that we can say or do. You are to be pitied.

Are you a person who values the truth? If so, we want to help you obey it!