

## Matthew 7:6

### Introduction

- A. In verses 1-5 Jesus teaches us that we are not to have a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.
- B. In verse 6 Jesus teaches us that we *are* to have a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit.
- C. Matthew 10:16 – Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be *wise as serpents* and innocent as doves.

### I. Observations

- A. Jesus is *not* being \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_-spirited way.
  - 1. Jesus never \_\_\_\_\_ anyone a pig or a dog!
  - 2. It's not about being mean, it's about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. We must humbly \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to the accuracy and appropriateness of Jesus' judgment.
- B. Jesus expects us to have the \_\_\_\_\_ to discern in various situations who is a pig and who is a dog and who is *not* a pig and *not* a dog!
- C. But we know that we must *always* be \_\_\_\_\_ in our judgments (1-5).

### II. The general principle

- A. Structure (Chiastic)
  - A. Do not give dogs what is holy,
  - B. and do not throw your pearls before pigs,
  - B. lest they [the pigs] trample them underfoot
  - A. and [the dogs] turn to attack you.
- B. “**Do not give dogs what is holy**, lest... [they] turn to attack you.”
  - 1. Exodus 22:31 – “You shall be consecrated to me. Therefore you shall not eat any flesh that is torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.
  - 2. Consecrated (\_\_\_\_\_) food was to be eaten only by the priests and their families, and only within the \_\_\_\_\_ area.
- C. “Do not give dogs what is holy, **lest... [they] turn to attack you.**”
  - 1. Jesus is *not* saying that we shouldn't give what is holy to the dogs because we might get \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2. Jesus *is* saying that we shouldn't give what is holy to the dogs – *because it's* \_\_\_\_\_!
  - 3. Do not give dogs what is *holy*... lest you get what you \_\_\_\_\_!
- D. “**And do not throw your pearls before pigs**, lest they trample them underfoot”
- E. “And do not throw your pearls before pigs, **lest they trample them underfoot**”
  - 1. A pig has no \_\_\_\_\_ for the value of a pearl!

2. If I throw pearls into a pigpen, I am treating the pearl as if it had no \_\_\_\_\_ at all!

F. The main point is not the “pigs” and the “dogs”. The main point is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the food and the precious \_\_\_\_\_ of the pearls.

G. Holy food and precious pearls

1. What is the holy food (“what is holy”) that we have as disciples of Jesus?
  - a. 2 Timothy 3:15 (cf. Rom. 7:12) – From childhood you have been acquainted with the *sacred writings*, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
  - b. Jude 20 – But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most *holy faith*...
2. What are the precious pearls that we have in our possession as Christians?
  - a. 2 Timothy 1:13-14 – Follow the *pattern of the sound words* that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit [NASB paraphrases: “treasure”] entrusted to you.
  - b. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 – For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of *the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*. But we have this treasure [the fullness of the revelation of God in Christ Jesus] in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
  - c. Matthew 13:45-46 – Again, the *kingdom of heaven* is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
3. The holy food and the precious pearls that we have in our possession could refer to anything and everything flowing from the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. These are things that we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ and treat with \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. Some specific applications

A. When *not* to share the \_\_\_\_\_

1. Scriptures
  - a. Matthew 15:12-14 – Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up. Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.”
  - b. Matthew 10:14 – And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.
  - c. Luke 23:8-9 – When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.
  - d. Galatians 1:9 – As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed [eternally condemned].

- e. 2 John 10-11 – If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.
  - f. Acts 18:6 (cf. Acts 13:46) – And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
  - g. Acts 19:9 – But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ not continue to preach the Gospel to those who mock, for that is to needlessly expose the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel to contempt and dishonor.

B. When *not* to \_\_\_\_\_ a “brother”.

- 1. We saw last week (verse 5) that we have the responsibility to mercifully, compassionately, and humbly help anyone who might have a *speck* in his eye.
- 2. When we do this, we are bringing the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ truths of God’s Word to bear upon another person’s life.
- 3. But there are times when we will encounter a brother who is \_\_\_\_\_ in his own eyes and who refuses to accept correction.
- 4. Scriptures
  - a. Proverbs 9:7-8 – Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.
  - b. Proverbs 23:9 – Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the good sense of your words.
  - c. Titus 3:10-11 – As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.
  - d. Matthew 18:15-17 – (After a third attempt at correction, “let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector”)
  - e. 2 Timothy 3:2-5 – For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
  - f. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 – I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”
  - g. Cf. 1 Timothy 1:20
- 5. We *must not* continue to exhort and reprove those who proudly refuse to listen, for that is to needlessly expose the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s truth to further contempt and dishonor.

## Conclusion

### A. A warning to *us*

1. By our actions or attitudes let us not prove *ourselves* unfit to be recipients of any of the holy food or precious pearls that flow from the Gospel of the Kingdom!
2. Let us “put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ the *implanted word*, which is able to save our souls” (Jm. 1:21).

### B. We need to pray for *great* \_\_\_\_\_!

### C. What is our motive?

1. It is not a self-righteous disdain for the pigs and the dogs... but a *humble* \_\_\_\_\_ and a deep \_\_\_\_\_ for the holy and precious treasures of the Gospel of the Kingdom!
2. Psalm 119:136 – My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.
3. This motive will give us great \_\_\_\_\_.

## Teaching our Children

Read Matthew 7:6

Q. What are the holy and precious things that we have as Christians?

A. All the truths of the Bible. Everything that we believe as Christians. The Gospel and all of God’s laws and ways. (See Scriptures under II. G.)

Q. When should we *stop* sharing the good news about Jesus with someone?

A. When a person mocks and makes fun of the truth we should not continue to share the truth with them. (But we can keep praying!; See Scriptures under III. C. 4.)

Q. Why should we not keep on sharing the truth with people who insist on mocking the truth?

A. Because the truth of the Gospel is a holy and precious thing! We respect the truth and love the truth! We must not let it be dishonored and disrespected like this.

Q. When should we stop trying to help another Christian to see and get rid of the *speck* in his eye?

A. We should stop trying to help when the other person is proud and refuses to listen. (But we can keep praying!; See Scriptures under III. B. 4.)

Q. Why should we stop trying to help someone who is proud and refuses to listen?

A. Because the truth and wisdom of God’s Word that we are seeking to help them with is holy and precious. We respect and love the truth and wisdom of God’s Word. We do not want it to keep on being dishonored by their arrogant refusal to listen.

Q. Do you respect and love the holy and precious truths of God’s Word *this* much (so much that it makes you very sad and even angry when God’s truth is dishonored by others)? (See Psalm 119:136 under Conclusion C.; warn against sinful anger)

Q. How can we make sure that *we* do not proudly refuse God’s truths?

A. See James 1:21 (Conclusion A. 2.)