

Pearls and Pigs April 27th & 28th, 2013

Matthew 7:6

“...do not throw your pearls before pigs...”

Jesus often used strong language when referring to people who were antagonistic to His Words of life.

“Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.” Matthew 7:6

↳ *“Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.” Philippians 3:2*

↳ *“Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.” Revelation 22:15*

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness.” Matthew 23:27

“You serpents, you brood of vipers...” Matthew 23:33

“And He said to them, Go tell that fox [Herod]...” Luke 13:32

❖ Jesus was cautioning His disciples concerning indiscriminate sharing of the gospel!

*“[Matthew] 7:6 **what is holy.** “A reference to the evidences of the kingdom...But ‘what is holy’ would also include the preaching of the kingdom; believers should not continue to preach to people who have rejected the gospel with contempt and scorn...”¹*

❖ Testifying of life in the Kingdom of God is like sharing priceless pearls!

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,” Matthew 13:45

Key Questions to Consider

- ☞ Are there times when we should not share God’s Word with others?
- ☞ How do I respond to people who do not want me to talk about Christianity?
- ☞ Will I be disobedient if I do not talk to everyone about the gospel?

Insights from God’s Word

❖ There are times when we should refrain from sharing God’s Word. *Proverbs 9:7-10*

↳ A fool is unteachable!

♦ The Disciples were directed to only speak to those who would listen to them.

“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.” Matthew 10:14

♦ Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles when the Jews at Antioch rejected the gospel. *Acts 13:44-52*

♦ Paul and Silas also turned to the Gentiles when the Jews at Corinth reviled them concerning Jesus being the Christ. *Acts 18:5-6*

♦ Paul faced rejection and disagreement from the Jews at Rome concerning the truth of God’s Word. *Acts 28:17-28*

❖ We must always pray for discernment and openness to the gospel.

♦ Paul prayed for open doors for the Word of God to declare its mysteries! *Colossians 4:2-4*

Paul Prayed in this way because ...

... the natural man cannot understand the things of God

“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

... the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers.

“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

♦ Only the Holy Spirit can convince men concerning the truth of God’s Word. *John 16:8-11*

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:3

♦ God’s Holy Spirit will direct us regarding when and where to share. *Acts 16:6-10*

Christians must understand that we cannot convince, convict, or save anyone.

↳ We are called to be His witnesses and God will build His Kingdom!

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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