

Dogs and Pigs Matthew 7:6

Judge not, lest you yourself be judged. What does it mean? Remember last week, Jesus was not forbidding _____. He does forbid us from having a judgmental _____ or being _____. That word means being hyper-critical or _____. We are not to be judgmental in the sense of _____.

A fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ really has one dominant trait, _____. A believer rightly diagnoses herself as being totally _____ but _____ forgiven by the Redeemer. This person will make sure the _____ is removed from their own eye before even thinking about the _____ in someone else's.

We then come to verse 6. Is it its own topic? Does it belong with verses 1-5? Good questions. It seems to fit with 1-5. One thing you'll want to note: Jesus gave ___ verses prohibiting us from being _____ and just _____ against being discerning. Why? We are much more prone to being _____.

You might think being undiscerning/undiscriminating is a good thing. A real problem with this attitude is that people can refuse to see the distinctions between truth and error. All it takes for a denomination to begin to drift is a single turn.

Believers must be able to distinguish between truth/error and, additionally, motes and beams. We have to be able to do this because of what we find in our text today. Jesus commands us not to throw to the dogs what is holy. We have to be able to discern what is holy and what is not, between what the meaning of dog and even pig.

The dog to which Jesus refers was semi-wild, roaming the streets, foraging garbage in savage packs. A Jew would not have had that dog as a pet, much less in their home.

The pig was considered the epitome of _____ to a Jewish person. Jesus could not have picked two more unclean beasts than He did. So, then, what's the point?

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The command of Jesus was not to throw what is holy to the dogs, don't throw your pearls to swine. The two terms _____ and _____ are really synonyms in the verse. Holy could have been meat the priests has sacrificed on the altar which was to be consumed by the fire or by the priest. Now, think for a moment, do you think the dog to which Jesus referred, would pause, even for a moment to consider where this meat had come from?

This unclean pig is the other picture Jesus paints. Antiochus Epiphanes..... Notice what is thrown to the ravenous pigs: pearls, costly pearls at that. Will the pig, stop and consider how valuable those pearls are?

Remember, Jesus has been speaking about discernment, beams and specks. While Jesus is not telling us to call someone pigs/dogs, He is telling us there's a time for discernment.

- 1) There are times when we have to assess our audience.

- 2) There are times when we see that different people need different methods of sharing the gospel.
- 3) There really never is a time when we ought to be harsh, just to be harsh.
- 4) We shouldn't attempt to have a doctrinal discussion with unredeemed people.
- 5) Sadly, after everything is said and everything is done, and it's apparent this person is not interested, you have to do what Jesus said to do "shake off the dust" and move on to another field and leave them to the providence of God.
- 6) We also have to learn that it is unwise to throw what is holy to dogs and to throw pearls to swine.