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Today for Seeking Truth we are going to the Gospels…

We are going to look at Pups, Pigs & Pearls.

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Right after Jesus spoke about pulling the beam out of your eye before looking to remove the speck in your brothers' eye… He said this comment about dogs and swine – let’s look at this first part of the scripture… **“Do not give what is holy to dogs,…”**

If we just look at the words in Greek – it reveals some meaning…

**CLICK**

Holy is ***Hagios*** (hag'-ee-os); meaning most holy thing.

**CLICK**

Dogs is ***Kuon*** (koo'-ohn); meaning a dog, but metaphorically meaning a man of impure mind, an impudent man – which is a shameless man that is bold while despising others.

Now this dog here is too cute to represent ***Kuon*** (koo'-ohn)… this is better pictured as….

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I have read that it is believed this principle of Jesus was proven by His physical ministry here on earth – He did not perform miracles for unbelievers. Which is shown a little later in Matthew and other Gospels – think about it - when He visited Nazareth, He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

What is holy is not just miracles given – it is the Gospel spoken.

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Proverbs 23:9

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,  
For he will despise the wisdom of your words.

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The second part of this scripture is:

and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

**CLICK**

Looking at throw – we see the word ***Ballo*** (bal'-lo); meaning to throw or let go of a thing without caring where it falls.

**CLICK**

Pearls or ***Margarites*** (mar-gar-ee'-tace); is a literal pearl but is also a proverb, a word of great value.

Swine were known as unclean animals – and have shown to not appreciate what is valuable.

It says: or they will trample them… **CLICK**

***Katapateo*** (kat-ap-at-eh'-o); means to trample but also metaphorically means to treat with rudeness and insult, to treat with insulting neglect.

This could go beyond verbal abuse and become a physical retaliation – KJV says rend you… which means to rip apart.

There is another story about a different kind of dog than what we witnessed earlier.

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So what does this painting have to do with dogs…

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Does anyone know this story – just by the picture shown here?

**CLICK**

This was a story about a Syrophoenician woman who came to the Savior.

Matthew 15:21-28

**21**Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. **22**And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and *began* to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.” **23**But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.”

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**24**But He answered and said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” **25**But she came and *began* to bow down before Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” **26**And He answered and said, “It is not [good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” **27**But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” **28**Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.

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This story was also told from a different perspective in the book of Mark.

Mark 7:24-30

**24**Jesus got up and went away from there to the region of Tyre. And when He had entered a house, He wanted no one to know *of it*; yet He could not escape notice. **25**But after hearing of Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. **26**Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophoenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

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**27**And He was saying to her, “Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” **28**But she answered and \*said to Him, “Yes, Lord, *but* even the dogs under the table feed on the children’s crumbs.” **29**And He said to her, “Because of this answer go; the demon has gone out of your daughter.” **30**And going back to her home, she found the child lying on the bed, the demon having left.

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Jesus was not seeking to have a public ministry in Tyre – It is thought to have possibly been a place for Him to get some rest from the havoc of the Sadducees and to disciple the 12 before His crucifixion… but word spreads fast when God on earth walks into town.

Even though Jesus was sent for the lost sheep of Israel – His earthly ministry touched those who were not of the sheepfold yet. People who were outsiders came and worshipped the one true God… even though others were trying to turn them away.

The dog mentioned in this Gospel story – is not one of the ***Kuon*** (koo'-ohn) from the last Gospel message but a… ***Kunarion*** (koo-nar'-ee-on); which means a little dog, this would be a domesticated dog…

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**…CLICK**

We have seen with the first Gospel that there are dogs and pigs that will reject the saving message of the gospel. That in some cases the Pearl of Great Price… is not accepted and even rejected harshly – or even thought of as insignificant….

I heard one pastor in the past say that – these dogs and swine need a different type of evangelism – he called it pre-evangelism… which is prayer and true love shown to them by action.

There are times where we must wait on the prevenient grace of God – to go from these…

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To this…

People must recognize a need - before receiving a solution.

And that preparation of the heart can only be given by Holy Spirit’s Prevenient Grace – which gives the opportunity for us to speak about God’s loving salvation to the accepting eyes of a little ***Kunarion*** (koo-nar'-ee-on).