

Pearls Before Swine – Matthew 7:6

Matthew 7:6 [New King James] *“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

This statement comes at the end of the “sermon on the mount” collection of statements of Jesus Christ, and in the context of not judging other people.

The general sense of the saying is that objects of value, special understandings, participation in sacred things, should not be offered to those who are incapable of appreciating them.

Jesus Christ compared the Kingdom of God to a “pearl of great price,” [Matthew 13:45-46] but pigs will not value pearls because they cannot eat them.

Holy flesh that is the flesh of sacrificial animals given under Old Covenant, had a religious value over and above the nutritive value for worshippers who shared in a “peace offering sacrifice,” but pariah dogs will make no different between it and the scraps of offal for which they fight in the street.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 [New King James] *“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”*

Without the “human spirit” that makes us human beings we would be but animals.

Daniel 4:24-37 [New King James] *“this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.’ All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honour of my majesty?’ While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.’ That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws. And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honoured Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honour and splendour returned to me. My counsellors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added*

to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.”

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar shows the value of this “*human spirit*,” that gives us understanding that animals do not have, [Job 32:8].

But to understand and know the value of spiritual things we have to receive an indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [John 16:13] that is given only to those who obey the Creator God, [Acts 5:32].

This is why we are not to judge those who do not understand the spiritual message that Jesus Christ the Son of God brought from God the Father.

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 [New King James] *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”*

Although Paul understood that the message he was preaching would not be appreciated it did not stop him preaching it, even when it brought on him great persecution.

Isaiah 6:1-10 [New King James] *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.’ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ And He said, ‘Go, and tell this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.” Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed.’”*

Isaiah was confronted by the Eternal God with the same problem the vast majority of people would not accept the message he was to give them, but this did not stop him in preaching a very corrective message from the Eternal God.

Luke 23:8-9 [New King James] *“Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.”*

Jesus Christ knew it was useless to impart His message to some, this is why He had no answer for Herod Antipas, even though He knew it would bring painful persecution, [verses 10-11].

John 6:44 [New King James] *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

For the vast majority of people the message we preach as Christians will not be understood or appreciated until Satan's influence is taken away, for he is being allowed by the Eternal God to blind people to the gospel message, [2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44].

This time of revelation will **only** come after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when He stops the deception of Satan, [**Revelation 20:1-3**].

This is why Jesus Christ tells us not to judge other people.

Matthew 7:1-5 [New King James] *“**Judge not, that you be not judged.** For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”*

For such action would be hypocritical on our part and presumptuous on our part, [**Psalms 19:13**] thinking we know better than the Eternal God, when is the best time for a person's mind to be opened by the Holy Spirit to understand spiritual truths, [**Psalms 139:1-16**].