

## The Dogs and Swine

Matthew 13:34 *“All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them.”*

### The Dogs and Swine

Matthew 7:6 *“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”*

This parable gives us a warning. The warning is in regard to the spreading of the Gospel. I practice the teaching of Mark 16:15 which says *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* Yet, this parable of Matthew 7:6 spoken by our Lord warns that there are those to whom we are not to extend the Gospel. In short, this parable will teach us that we are not to *force* the truth upon rebels who reject it nor upon those who are evil-speakers of the Gospel. I believe from Mark 16:15 that everyone should be told the Gospel at least one time. If an individual hears and then turns as a raging dog against the Gospel, the Gospel is to be withdrawn.

### *Holy things*

The first part of the parable forbids us from *“giving holy things unto the dogs.”* “Holy things” may be anything pertaining to God. Some have reckoned that in the time of this parable “holy things” referred to meat given as a sacrifice. The meat given as a sacrifice in the temple was later fed to the dogs. What were the priests to do with so great amount of meat? To give the meat to dogs was unacceptable and was surely to allow “holy things” to be given to the dogs. Today, the Gospel is that which is holy. So, the Gospel is not to be given to dogs.

### *Dogs*

The dogs of Bible times were not as we know them. I know of no account in the Bible where a dog was a pet. Maybe I have overlooked such scripture. I do know of a lamb in II Samuel 12:3 as a pet, but no dog. The dogs of Bible days were vicious animals.

They were wild, in most instances. We can hardly relate to wild dogs in this society, for most are tame pets. They snarled and would bite. Philippians 3:2 says "*Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers...*" Revelation 22:15 says "*For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*" I King 21:23 tells us the dogs ate Jezebel. II Peter 2:22 says "*But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again...*" You may love your puppy dog, but the dogs of the Bible were wild in most instances and, in fact, dangerous. A tame dog licked poor man Lazarus' sores.

Thus, we are forbidden from casting that which is holy to dogs. Dogs spurn, oppose, and abuse the Gospel. Do you know anyone who blatantly rejects the truth? Such a one is a "dog" in the words of the Bible- not my words. I have met some dogs in this county, and you know some as well.

### ***Swine***

Unlike the dog, you can relate to the dirty nature of swine. Whereby the dog represents *ferocity*, swine represent *impurity*. There is little good to say about swine. They were so unclean it was forbidden by the Law of Moses they be eaten. I go back to II Peter 2:22 which speaks of "*the sow that was washed*" returning "*to her wallowing in the mire.*" Swine are always identified with mire. Mire is smelly soil. Swine are "at home" wallowing in mire. They would not be satisfied if they could not stick their snout into soured earth. They may be the most unclean of all beasts. Remember that the next time you sit before a breakfast of bacon and eggs. However, remember all food is made clean before God when we thank Him for it.

Swine are of such low estate that Christ cast the demons from the Maniac of Gadara into a herd of swine. In Luke 15 the prodigal son was relegated to the job of feeding swine. This was, for sure, the worst job he ever had and the low-point of his life.

As our text verse tells us, their nature is to "trample." Swine would not be satisfied on a clean floor like concrete. They prefer to trample. They walk to and fro just trampling the time away. If you toss a bit of food to a dog, the dog may catch it in the air and devour

it. But, not so with a hog. The hog would let the food hit the ground, trample it, mix it with mud and then eat it.

### ***Pearls***

The dog was not to be given that which was “holy.” Likewise, the swine is not to be given “pearls.” We know a pearl to be something that is precious. The pearl is formed in the shellfish. It is a precious commodity. Likewise, the doctrine of the Gospel is precious. We have no greater pearl than the precious truths of God’s Word.

Consider how well a hog likes an acorn. It is a favorite food. An acorn is a small, round object that falls as fruit from the oak tree. The pearl is a small, round object. If a pearl is tossed to a hog, guess what the result will be? The pearl will be trampled as an acorn into the mud. Then, when it is soiled sufficiently, it will be eaten.

There are those who, after hearing the Word, are worse than before. They snarl the more. They are more ferocious. They trample the more and dig deeper in the mire. These are they, of whom Christ said, have no right to the precious precepts of the Gospel. These are unworthy of “holy things” and “pearls.”

The meaning of this proverb is do not offer the Gospel to those violent and abusive people who would growl and curse God; nor to those especially debased and agnostic who would not perceive its value, would trample it down, and would abuse God’s truths. *Christians have an obligation to protect the jewels of their faith.*

The scripture of Mark 6:11 comes to mind. This verse instructs the disciples like this: *“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”* In other words, tell them of Jesus and you have fulfilled the command of “go ye into all the world.” Upon hearing, if they snarl as dogs and if they trample as swine, do not tell them again. Some folk just will not hear or heed the Gospel.

Matthew 10:14-15 *“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for*

*the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.”*