

Dogs and Hogs

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 7:6

Matthew 7:1–5, “Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. **3** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Matthew 7:6, “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.

Questions that come to mind when comparing these statements of Jesus:

- Must we exercise endless patience when dealing with those against Gospel principles?
- Do we treat our “brother (Matthew 7:3-5)” in the same manner as we treat “dogs” and “pigs”?
- What duty does the Christian have to exercise discernment, discrimination, and self-examination when dealing with others?
- Are these verses in conflict with each other and if not, how do we harmonize them?

I. The Scriptural Balance

- A. If verses of Scripture are isolated without comparison or context, we wrongly interpret Scripture and the instructions of our Lord. For example, verse 1.
 1. We must examine details, words, and surrounding Scripture to arrive at the correct interpretation.
 2. Precision, depth, and details matter!
- B. **Matthew 7:1-5**, challenges us not to be hypocritical (**esp. vs. 5**)
 1. **Matthew 7:3–4**
 2. The hypocritical condition
 - a) Hypocrites are blind (**7:3b**)
 - b) Hypocrites are unable (**7:4**)
- C. **Matthew 7:6** challenges us to be discerning and discriminating.
 1. **Matthew 7:15–16**, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (**Matthew 10:16; Luke 10:3; John 10:12; Acts 20:29**)”
 - a) Predatory hunters
 - b) Canine carnivores
 - c) Hunt in packs
 2. **1 John 4:1**, Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (do not believe: **Jeremiah 29:8**) (test: **1 Thess 5:21, 1 Cor 12:10; 14:29; Rev 2:2**)
 - a) Examine – not accept face value.
 - b) Test – pressure test what is said.
 - c) Approve – view results; fruit.

II. The Distinguishing Definitions

- A. What are “dogs” in Scripture?
 1. The reference is to “dogs” of the street, not pets or domesticated dogs. They were outcasts, large, savage, and ugly. They thrived on the garbage and rubbish thrown in the streets where they prowled.
 2. Dogs in Scripture were...
 - a) Considered unclean and filthy (**Proverbs 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22; Revelation 22:15**)
 - b) Dogs were threatening (**Psalms 22:16, 20**) (evildoers; relation to the cross!)
 - c) Dogs howl and snarl (**Psalms 59:6**)
 - d) Dogs are greedy and shameless (**Isaiah 56:11**)
 - e) Dogs are contemptible (**1 Sam 17:43, 24:14; 2 Sam 9:8, 16:9; 2 Kings 8:13**)

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- B. What are “pigs” in Scripture?
 - 1. They were unclean animals (**Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8**)
 - 2. Eating swine was an OT abomination (**Isaiah 65:4, 66:3, 17**)
 - 3. The prodigal was debased to feeding swine to eat (**Luke 15:15, 16**)
 - C. What is “holy” that can be given?
 - 1. Strictly, it is a picture of meat offered to God. Don’t give what has been set apart for God to the dogs.
 - 2. Metaphorically, it is the meat of Scripture; the gospel; the message of the kingdom.
 - D. What are “pearls” in Scripture?
 - 1. Pearls of great value (**Matthew 13:45-46**)
 - 2. Mentioned as part of “costly attire” (**1 Timothy 2:9**)
 - 3. They are mentioned as the adornments of the great whore of Babylon (**Revelation 17:4**)
 - 4. As part of the great jewels of Babylon (**Rev 18:12, 16**)
 - 5. The material from which the gates of heaven are made (**Revelation 21:21**)

III. The Kingdom Approach

- A. The challenge before the Christian is this, “How do we stay between the guardrails of hypocrisy and nothingness?”
 - 1. The Hypocrite forgets - **James 1:23–24**, *For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*
- B. The Kingdom approach
 - 1. It starts with being poor in spirit (**Matthew 5:3**) (We bring no spiritual value to God)
 - 2. We must mourn over our sin (**Matthew 5:4**) (We were/are dead in trespasses & sin)
 - 3. It results in Meekness (**Matthew 5:5**) (There is no hope apart from our Creator)
 - 4. It develops a hunger & thirst for righteousness (**Matthew 5:6**)
 - a) David (**Psalms 51:10, 12-13**)
 - b) Peter (**Luke 22:32**)
 - c) Paul (**Galatians 6:1**)

IV. The Scriptural Practice

- A. We must begin with examination, confession, and cleansing to exercise discernment and discrimination.
 - 1. **Matthew 7:5**, *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.*
- B. Follow the example of Jesus
 - 1. **Matthew 11:25**, *At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;*
 - 2. **Matthew 13:11**, *And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. Matthew 13:13, This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*
- C. The warning of Peter
 - 1. **2 Peter 2:1–3**, *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*
 - 2. **2 Peter 2:12**, *But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction,*
 - 3. **2 Peter 2:22**, *What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”*
- D. The Example of Paul
 - 1. **Acts 18:6**, *And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”*
- E. The Word to the Disciples
 - 1. **Matthew 10:14**, *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.*