

A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 7 v. 6-12

- **“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.” (v. 6)**
 - What are these “pearls” Jesus is talking about?
 - Same word used in **Matthew 13:45-46**
 - It refers to something of great value.
 - So, what does this verse mean?
 - **“Do not give what is holy to dogs”**
 - **“do not throw your pearls before swine”**
 - The Pharisees are doing this with the message of Jesus.
 - They do not consider it to be as valuable as it really is.
 - Food is that which is good for humans, and dog food is that which is not for human consumption.
 - One should not give that which is holy (good for you) to the dog to eat.
 - A pig will walk on anything, whether it is a pearl or a rotten apple.
 - The message is about wasting things of value on those who not only won't appreciate them, but might even be angered by the offer.
 - Let us look at this from two perspectives:
 - The Pharisees hearing Jesus may be becoming angry at Jesus' words
 - The lesson for the people is to examine their own hearts and determine whether that which is laid before them (Jesus' teachings) is truly holy or not.
 - Something to consider: Are there some that are so far gone, we waste our time trying to give them something they do not perceive as holy.
 - Does **Matthew 15:14** apply here?
 - **Matthew 10:13-14**
 - **Titus 1:15**
- **“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.” (v. 7-8)**
 - Jesus is specific here about man's relationship with the Father. This is so important!
 - In the Greek language these verbs are “linear.”
 - One must continue to ask, to seek, to knock.

- **Luke 18:1-8** - the parable of the persistent widow.
 - Why did she get what she wanted?
 - Keep asking, because if you ask once you might not receive.
 - How does 1 **John 5:14-15** apply here?
- Jesus is teaching about the loving nature of the Father, but their responsibility is to not give up.
- It is a personal thing to decide whether to give up or not.
 - In **John 5**, can we assume that God expects us to know His will?
 - Can ask God to forgive your sins if you are not willing to repent and be baptized?
 - Look at **1 Peter 3:21**.
 - Does it say it “might,” or it “shall” save us?
 - What might one seek for?
 - The Messiah and the kingdom.
 - If we keep seeking we will find.
 - Look at **John 14:6**
 - If one really desires to find the truth, he will find it!
 - **James 1:5**
 - When there are things we want to know about, we want answers in the Word.
 - God is the One to give wisdom. If one is seeking truth, he is going to find it.
 - The asking, seeking, and knocking also include prayer which is evident from **verses 9-11**.
- **“Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? (v. 9-10)**
 - No loving father would do this to their son!
 - Neither would our Heavenly Father.
 - Perhaps Jesus is attacking the negative attitude the scribes and Pharisees had toward God.
 - It’s been suggested that they did not see God as a loving Father because of the captivity, and all the trouble they experienced since the return from exile (Haggai and Malachi).

- **“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (V. 11)**
 - Even evil men still have some good in them. They do care for their own. Equally, God cares for His own.
 - **“Your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him.”**
 - Notice the qualifier - that the Father gives what is good to those who ask Him. Why?
 - Because He is our Father, and fathers like to give good gifts to their children.
 - **James 1:17**
 - He is consistent in giving what is good, and everything that is good in our lives has come from the hand of God.
 - Jesus encourages us to pray.
 - What can you name that He does not have the power to answer?
 - Anything we ask, He can give.
- **“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” (v. 12)**
 - Jesus' Sermon on the Mount now comes to one of the most famous statements in all of Scripture. It is often referred to as the Golden Rule.
 - Commonly quoted, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
 - Jesus has been talking about the way God responds to those that come to Him and how He is One to do good for them.
 - We want good done to us, so this is what we ought to do for others.
 - We want good gifts, so we should consider what we should do for others.
 - The golden rule is a very simple, but very powerful teaching.
 - What is it you want done to you? Do that to others (**Mt 6:14-15**).
 - **The Law and the Prophets.**
 - This sums up all of the teachings of the Law and Prophets (**Mt 22:37-40**).