

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

July 27, 2025 – Pearls and Pigs

Main Passage: Matthew 7:6

"Don't give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces." (Matthew 7:6)

I. Introduction

- Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:6 using a vivid and symbolic warning: don't give what is holy to dogs or throw pearls to pigs.
- This passage is often misunderstood—used to justify silence instead of witness, and judgment instead of grace.
- As we continue the Sermon on the Mount, this verse addresses how we handle righteousness—especially in the context of unbelievers.

II. Right Message, Wrong Method

- Jesus has already taught that we must not judge our fellow believers hypocritically (vv.1–5).
- Now He warns against casting pearls—precious truths of God—before those not ready to receive them.
- This does NOT mean we stop sharing the Gospel—it means we don't push transformation before conversion.
- The message of salvation must come before the expectations of sanctification.

III. Who Are the Dogs and Pigs?

- In the biblical context, dogs and pigs were unclean, dangerous, and disrespectful of holy things.
- These are symbolic of those who openly reject or mock the truths of God.
- The 'holy things' and 'pearls' represent the Gospel, righteousness, and the precious truths of God's Kingdom.
- Jesus warns not to give these treasures to those who will only despise, mock, or trample them.

IV. Don't Judge the Lost—Love Them

- Jesus is not saying avoid sinners—He dined with them, loved them, and saved them.
- What He condemns is judging the behavior of the lost before sharing the message that can transform them.

- Right behavior without saving faith is worthless. You can change their habits, but they're still lost.
- Jesus didn't come to improve behavior. He came to rescue souls.

V. Cultural Missteps and Church Witness

- Many believers spend time confronting sin in the world, but neglect sharing the Gospel that saves.
- Statistics reveal that many Americans view Christians as judgmental, not loving.
- We must care more about changing eternal destinations than temporary lifestyles.

VI. Application and Challenge

- Have you been focused on the behavior of unbelievers more than their hearts?
- Are you offering judgment where you should be offering Jesus?
- Have you tried to clean the fish before catching it?

Let us recommit to the Gospel:

- We are all sinners.
- Jesus alone saves.
- Faith precedes transformation.
- Our job is to share the truth in love—and let the Holy Spirit do the work.

The world needs Jesus—not polished behavior. Let's love the lost, plant Gospel seeds, and trust God for the harvest.

“Preaching behavior change before heart transformation is preaching a works-based gospel—which is no gospel at all.”

“Rearranging behavior without changing the heart is like putting lipstick on a pig.”

“Let's stop casting pearls and start planting seeds.”

“Changed hearts lead to changed lives—but only in that order.”