

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

Kingdom Discernment

Matthew 7:1-6

Slide 2:

Matthew 7:1–6 (ESV)

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 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? 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? 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.

“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.

Slide 3:

I. (Standard Operating Procedure) Relationships with Christians

II. (S.O.P.) Relationships with nonChristians

III. God's Relationship with You and Me.

Slide 4:

Relating with Christians

"Do not judge"

Slide 5:

Don't be censorious

Don't be critical

Don't think you have the authority or competence (knowing) to sit in judgment

Slide 6:

1 Corinthians 4:3–5 (ESV)

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any

judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

Slide 7:

To "not judge" does not mean to be blind or ignorant to Truth, but to be generous in grace with one another in our sins, as has been given to us.

Slide 8:

The "speck" and the "log"

That cannot mean:

1) Be sinless before you can help others in sin

Slide 9:

The "log" is self-righteousness

Romans 2:1–5 (ESV)

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Slide 10:

Relating with NonChristians

2 parables that show clear discernment but are critical of the "care-givers."

Slide 11:

The common denominator is that the care-givers are giving something above the awareness level of the "animals."

Slide 12:

To take something beautiful and valuable and to be pragmatic with it

Slide 13:

This does not mean:

- 1) Don't give pigs and dogs, pig and dog food.
- 2) Disguise the beauty as pig and dog food

Slide 14:

Romans 12:20 (ESV)

To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink..."

Slide 15:

4 Purposes of Christian Gatherings (Acts 2:42)

- 1) Apostles Teaching (Training, knowledge)
- 2) Fellowship (Encouragement, confession)
- 3) Breaking of Bread (Lord's Supper)
- 4) Prayer ("Our Father...")

Slide 16:

Joshua's Lesson

Slide 17:

When you accept the paradigm that God is useful to us, and minister in that environment, you are feeding holy things to dogs, and pearls to pigs.

Slide 18:

God Relating to Us

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Matthew 7:1-6. What are some of your thoughts about, or questions of, the text?

2) How is it possible to help others with sin (specks) and not have a log (bigger sin) in your own eye? What is the sin that is bigger than all sins?

could not be graceful and grace-giving?

4) What makes a "pig" a pig, and a "dog" a dog? How is this person different from the person with a "log" in their eye?

5) Why is it not helpful, and even extremely harmful to non-Christians to disguise pearls as pig food? In other words, to accept a pigs paradigm that it needs what it needs, and everything must be "for" or "against" what they need...

Think about this! Here are a few reasons to consider:

a) It doesn't trust the pearl to make a pig into a person

b) It doesn't help the pig to "feel" better in the long run

c) Once the pig finds out the "pearl" (Gospel) doesn't help in the way it was marketed, the pig is truly lost in anger!

6) How did Jesus become and remain a pearl? Why was he put to death? (They wanted pig food) Did He ever claim to be able to do what they wanted Him to do?

How do we become transformed from pigs and dogs into sons and daughters?

7) Prayer and praise