

DISCERNING HOLY THINGS

Matt 7.6

Jesus references pigs and dogs...who are they and how should they be treated? DOG is used multiple time in the NT, means just that: a dog.

Swine: plain old pig. 13x in NT...only pig.

Let's get our definitions: Who are the dogs and swine?

LIT a dog, metaphorically *a man of impure mind, impudent, disrespectful, immodest*

(Going to see...) NOT "normal" sinners. NOT deeply corrupt sinners. NOT extremely evil people. NOT drug addicts...
NOT perverts, deviates, strippers, prostitutes

Jesus called a little Samaritan woman a "dog" but went on to heal her...I have not seen so great a faith, not in all of Israel!

So if this is what Jesus was referring to, why heal her? Great faith?

Do you know anyone that is beyond his grace and mercy?

Jesus ate with all these people, and the religious bigots accused him of being...

Look at Paul before his conversion! Talk about evil, devilish and hypocritical...

Mary Mag had 7 demons!

Demoniac of Gerasenes...filled a whole herd of pigs with his demons!

So who are these people that we are NOT supposed to share the Gospel with?

FIRST, JESUS WAS SPEAKING PROPHETICALLY

He was telling the disciples what was soon going to happen to him!

He gave all the truth he was permitted by the Father to give; He brought the "pearls" and "holy things" of heaven to this pig sty;

He left the glory of heaven; divested himself; He gave himself FULLY to a LOST AND REBELLIOUS world

He knew he was going to be betrayed, tortured and die He knew all of humanity (except for a few) would reject THIS HOLY gift.

He knew full well that (AS the final OT Prophet), he would be rejected, despised and KILLED *just like all the prophets before Him*

SECOND, JESUS WAS SPEAKING PROPHETICALLY TO THE EARLY CHURCH

They will take you and scourge you...

They will bring you before their councils...

If they hated me, they will hate you!

(Matt 5)

(2 Tim 3.12)

Paul: I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men / women...

Without question, the early church was persecuted much more than any other time in history.

At the beginning, the entire church was under the boot of Rome and the oppression of the religious Jewish system.

I believe Jesus was speaking prophetically to the church, to the disciples,

telling them to get ready for the persecution that was going to follow his resurrection.

Get ready for the dogs to attack. Get ready for the swine to snort!

THIRD, JESUS WAS SPEAKING PROPHETICALLY TO US!

Listen to Peter, John, Paul and James several years from now.

There will come into the church foul, despotic false teachers There will be a period when the visible church will become Laodecia

There are portions of the church that are being persecuted horribly.

As we near the end of the age, get ready for the days of Noah, days of Sodom and Gom:

Days of itching ears; covetous boasters; proud blasphemers, disobedience;

Unnatural affection; fierce; liars and truce-breakers...

No matter how lovingly you express truth, it can get you killed! (Or at least mocked, ridiculed, ostracized, fired...)

But truth is truth, and sometimes our truth is cast among the dogs and they turn and kill us!

FINALLY, JESUS WAS DESCRIBING THE FALSE PROPHETS

These are enemies of the gospel, as opposed to those who are merely unbelievers.

These were false Jewish leaders who were compelling Gentiles to follow the OT rituals.

-If you are not circumcised, you cannot be born again. -If you do not follow the sabbath laws -It is Moses first, then Jesus second.

-Dietary laws first, salvation second -It is the washing & temple activity -Temple worship first, new birth 2nd

Paul called them: dogs, evil workers...the concision (Php 3.2)

2 Pet 2

Jude

CONCL: *SO WHAT DO WE DO?*

First, we speak the truth in love. So what does that mean?

Love bears, believes all things, hopes all things...love never fails.

As I speak the truth to that person I have to BEAR their iniquity.

I have to bear their resentment, bitterness, anger, their foolish behavior, failures and shortcomings *all because of love.*

I have to BELIEVE that God's love will cover a multitude of sins

I have to BELIEVE That TRUTH will win out over the lie. ...That truth will illuminate their darkness.

As I speak the truth in love, I have to hope.

I have to hope that the words that I speak will actually penetrate their spirit.

...will be empowered by the HS and will change their lives.

The second thing is I have to believe that I have the truth PERIOD.

We have the truth! And the truth has set us free!

I know that I have the fundamental truth of the universe dwelling inside me.

I know whom I believed and am persuaded.

I know JESUS and He is the way...the truth...LIFE.

I know WHAT and WHO they need. I know they need the gospel.

They do not know they need the gospel, but I know they need the gospel!

AND I know it can change their life because it's the truth

Finally, I need to pray! I need to SPEAK to GOD for MEN!

THAT intercessor who stands in the gap: Makes up a hedge: Builds a wall.

STOPS the onslaught of darkness...