



## On the Same Page

“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.” (Matthew 7:6 NAS95)

### Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

## Dogs and Pigs

Our verse for consideration is this: **“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”** (Matthew 7:6 NAS95). These are words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, and they sound a bit judgmental, immediately following, as they do, verses that warn against being judgmental.

But guarding against judgmentalism is not to say that we should not be wise and discerning. And we should know that dogs and pigs are not going to make good use of what is holy and precious.

Now, of course, I'm not talking about your pet dog or pig. Jesus is referring to dogs and pigs in His day. Dogs were not house pets, but were scavengers and travelled in packs. They could be dangerous, as indicated from Psalm 22:16 *“For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me.”* Pigs could be dangerous, I suppose, but their chief offense would be their uncleanness. You can scrub up a pig, but it will return to the mire straightaway. And Old Testament law prohibited contact with pigs as unclean.

So we are not to desecrate what is holy by throwing it to the dogs, nor to waste what is precious by allowing pigs to root around in it. But to what does this apply? **I think it must be the Gospel.**

That presents a bit of a problem, because Jesus said that we are to sow the Gospel (using a different metaphor) indiscriminately. Whether it falls on the roadway, or on rocky soil, or amongst thorns, or on good soil, our job is to chuck seed and let God be in charge of the increase. How do we solve this apparent contradiction?

### **We are to share the Gospel freely and widely and lovingly.**

Our mindset is not how we should refrain from sharing, but in how we may find opportunity to share the Gospel. And yet we do so **watching and praying for the hungry heart** - for the person who is seeking to know God and to be set right with Him.

Think of Jesus talking with Nicodemus, a religious ruler who came to Jesus by night. He might have been testing Jesus. He may have been cynical. But he came asking, *“how can a man enter the kingdom of God?”*, and Jesus was glad to answer his question (John 3). In the next chapter Jesus talks to the broken woman at the well, disappointed by men, and rejected by the women of the village. Jesus regarded neither one as either a dog or a pig. He saw them as **people with hungry hearts**, and they responded accordingly.

### **But there are those with hard rather than hungry hearts.**

They are the ungodly, the sinners, and the scornful of Psalm 1:1.

They are like the judge in Luke 18 “*who did not fear God or respect men.*” They are the enemies who took David’s men and cut off half their beards and bared their backsides in order to humiliate them. They are like the religious leaders of Jesus day who were more concerned with impressing people than with being right with God. **There is nothing more doggy or piggy than self-righteousness**, and to lay out the Gospel patiently and clearly with this kind of people is not only to see this precious truth trampled, but also to invite them to tear you to pieces as well.

But let’s be clear. **That is exactly what Jesus did. He shared the Gospel, even with these type of people, and turn on Him they did. They turned on Him and tore Him to pieces.** And He did this in order that we - you and me, could be saved from our own doggishness and piggishness. And the power of God’s grace is such that it can take dogs and pigs and turn us into those who gradually look more and more like Jesus.

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## Scarcity Brain by Michael Easter

**In the year 494, fourteen-year-old Benedict moved to Rome to study. The city and Roman Empire were in a free fall. Historians say decadence was a key driver of the downfall. According to Pope Pius XII, Benedict “noticed heresies of all manner...private and public morality were crumbling and very many, especially the fine elegant youth, were sadly sunk in the mire of pleasure.” Benedict wrote that Roman society was “dying and it laughs.”**

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### Notes:

**Sunday school meets weekly** with classes for adults and children.

**Ladies Bible study** meets in the sanctuary, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

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### Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

**Our “Pentecost” series** began on Sunday, April 14, with an exposition of Matthew 7 as we seek to finish a Springtime journey through the Sermon on the Mount.



**This Sunday, April 28**, we come to the verse known as “**the Golden Rule**,” (Matthew 7:12), and consider how to live as Christians in an unChristian world.

**Last Sunday, April 21**, we continued to the section about being willing to ask God for what we need and want (Matthew 7:7-11) in a message titled “**The Problem of Christian Prayerlessness.**” This message intends to direct us to positive actions that we can take to pray spiritually and faithfully. [Listen to the message here.](#)

**On the Same Page** weekly newsletters are available on our website, and there is also an email list which will deliver the newsletter to you each week.

**Daily Encouragement** emails go out Monday-Saturday mornings, with a short devotional and congregational prayer requests.

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