

CASTING PEARLS

INTRODUCTION

A. Matthew 13:45-46

There is nothing greater in value than the heavenly kingdom. It is worthy every cost and every sacrifice.

B. Matthew 7:6

Jesus taught that when others prove themselves indifferent toward the value of the kingdom of heaven, it is inappropriate to waste further effort trying to persuade them.

C. Luke 9:1-6; 10:8-12

He instructed the twelve and also the seventy to shake off the dust when leaving behind those who declined the gospel.

I. NOT AN INVITATION TO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

A. Matthew 9:11-13

Jesus sought out sinners to save and so must we! Without Christ, we were sinners, too. We do not perceive of ourselves as superior to those in need of the gospel.

B. Luke 18:9-14

Justification cannot come our way without humility. The self-righteous cannot prosper. This theme of not casting pearls before swine is not about comparing our worth to others, but about whether others recognize the worth of the gospel.

II. AN EXERCISE IN DISCERNMENT

A. Hebrews 5:12-14

It is a matter of maturity to be able to discern good from evil.

B. John 7:24

Jesus did command us to judge, provided the judgment is righteous and not superficial.

C. Matthew 7:15-20

Sometimes, we are reluctant to judge because we think that, since we are not God, we cannot know the hearts of others. That is simply untrue. What people say and do is sufficient evidence on which we may reach a valid determination. The Lord said so.

III. A MATTER OF PRIORITY

A. Colossians 4:5

We are obligated to make wise use of a very finite resource: time. If we invest time teaching the scornful, what time will we have left to find and instruct the humble who want to learn?

B. Proverbs 9:7-9

Some folks are simply not worth teaching.

C. Acts 13:46-51; 18:5-6

Both in Antioch and in Corinth, when the Jews disrespected what was preached, Paul and his companions shook off the dust and turned their attention to the more receptive Gentiles.

CONCLUSION

A. 1st Corinthians 1:18-25

Foolish folk see the gospel as foolish, but wise ones see it for its true wisdom. Salvation is within!

B. Revelation 22:17

The water of life is not for those who aren't thirsty. But if you desire it come drink!