

Sermon on the Mount - Matthew 7:6
Growling Dogs & Charging Pigs

Matthew 7:6 - "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.

- The NT reveals that Jesus has an iron fist in a velvet glove (Matt. 23; Luke 13:32).
- Jesus says some human beings exhibit animal-like behavior, and can accurately be described as "dogs" and "pigs."
- The metaphors are easy to understand, the meaning behind the metaphors is more difficult.
- What's not so obvious is what is the something (sacred and valuable) and who are those (who won't recognize it or value it)?
- The Bible helps us to understand Jesus' meaning (Psalms 22:16; 20; Philippians 3:2; & 2 Peter 2:22). Apparently, dogs and pigs are those in settled opposition against the Lord and His message.
- Scholars/commentators (except for 1) believe Jesus is teaching us to use discernment in evangelism (Matthew 10:14; Luke 10:10-11; Acts 13:44-51; 28:17-28).
- Some discretion in sharing the gospel is prudent and advisable.

*But is this what Jesus is saying here? Jesus has been warning about judging, and he goes on to talk about prayer, why would he stick in two sentences to urge us to be careful about whom we evangelize. What does witnessing to the Gentiles have to do with the Sermon on the Mount?
(Dr. Haddon Robinson).*

- There is another way to understand Jesus' words by looking at the broader context of the Sermon on the Mount.
- The point Jesus makes in (7:6) is essentially the same point he made in (5:13).

- o Don't turn your back on the Lord and give what is sacred - your life (who you are, what you believe, and how you live) - to dogs. Don't take what is precious - your relationship with God - and throw it to the pigs who will tear you apart.