

April 2nd, 2008

Command of Christ → Don't cast your pearls to swine
Character Quality → Discretion
Scripture Reference → Matthew 7:6

*“Do not give that which is holy (the sacred thing) to the dogs,
and do not throw your pearls before hogs,
lest they trample upon them with their feet and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

Dogs – unbelievers / Gentiles (Matthew 15:22-28)

- A term of contempt in biblical references
- Scavengers

Hogs – unclean animals; non-kosher (forbidden to be eaten)

- To the Jew it was a symbol of filthiness and paganism

Holy – things pertaining to God

Pearls – An item of great value (Matthew 13:45, 46)

- An item of trade (Matthew 13:45, 46; Revelation 18:12-16)
- A prized piece of feminine jewelry (1 Timothy 2:9)
- Figurative for the word of the Lord (Matthew 7:6)
- The gate of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:21)

What was Jesus actually instructing us to do (or not to do)?

There are two key metaphors in the text:

1. The character of particular people.
2. The value of particular things.

There are certain people who cannot be trusted with certain things.

- Without discretion, you will not know what to trust (value) with who (character).

Discretion (Webster's) – having good judgment in conduct and speech;
the ability to make responsible decisions;
individual choice or judgment

Proverbs 1:3-5
2:11
3:21-24
5:1, 2
11:22
19:11