

Sermon Notes – 04.23.2023 - Guard What is Sacred

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."

We Have Been Given Something Holy

2 Peter 1:3-4 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

There are Times and Situations When Jesus Would Direct Us to Understand, "Not Now."

There Are Times When God Chooses to Withhold

Leading up to the flood

Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever,

The Corrupt Time When Eli was Priest

1 Samuel 3:1 ... word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

In the Days of Amos the Prophet

Amos 8:11-12 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

As a God's Response to Unrelenting Rebellion

Proverbs 1:24; 28-30 "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; . ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me, ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD. ³⁰ "They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

Proverbs 9:7 He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And he who reproves a wicked man *gets* insults for himself. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

Do not give what is holy to dogs - Jesus is referring to the wild animals, not the pets that we think of.

These were wild dogs that could be found anywhere they could scavenge.

"and turn again and rend you — as dogs do. Religion is brought into contempt, and its professors insulted, when it is forced upon those who cannot value it and will not have it. But while the indiscriminately zealous have need of this caution, let us be on our guard against too readily setting our neighbors down as dogs and swine, and excusing ourselves from endeavoring to do them good on this poor plea."

Jamieson-Fausset- Brown Commentary

False Teachers are Described in Similar Way

2 Peter 2:12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,

2 Peter 2:21-22 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

Jesus Sent Us as Sheep Among Wolves

Matthew 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues;

Matthew 10:14-15 "Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for *the* land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers...

We Are Called to Speak Boldly About Jesus – But There Are Times When it is Time to Move on

Acts 13:46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

It Was the Same Powerful Preaching, Miracle Working Jesus Who Showed up in Nazareth.

Matthew 13:57-58 And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household." ⁵⁸ And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Luke 4:30 But passing through their midst, He went His way.

We are Called to, "Not Faint" in Our Service.

This is Not a Call to Quit – But to Recognize When the Time to Move On Arrives

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