



July 9, 2006

Casting Pearls

The word of God is precious having a value far above anything else in this world. Solomon wrote, ***“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”*** (Prov 23.23). God has entrusted the word to humans agents and it is our responsibility to teach and practice this faithfully. Paul states, ***“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*** (2 Cor 4.7). Unfortunately there are times when we misuse and misunderstand the word and our obligations with it. In the sermon on the mount, Christ spoke of many things, all of which will characterize the lives of those who follow him. As we look around us however we sometimes neglect to teach those who are in the most need of the word due to social, racial and economic prejudice. Christ stated, ***“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”*** (Matt 7.6). This statement perhaps fits some who look at others and make decisions about whether an individual will respond to the gospel, or if we should even bother. There are large groups of people, who due to their living conditions, economic status etc., that some will avoid and never try to teach them. The gospel is thus withheld from some who may desperately need it the most. When Christ was on the earth he went to those that others would not approach. He was accused of various things because of this. The “good” people of his day developed an attitude that justified their rejection of him. Comparing the attitudes that were expressed concerning both John the baptizer and himself, Christ stated, ***“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.”*** (Matt 11.18-19). The scribes, Pharisees and other religious leaders of the first century simply wanted an excuse that they could use to reject the message that he preached to them, many times denouncing them for their attitudes. Christ summed this up when he stated, ***“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”*** (Matt 7.3-5). These people were too busy condemning others to recognize their own guilt before God. Christ indicates that there are those who we should not waste our time on. This decision however cannot be made until after we have approached one with the gospel. Christ, when sending his disciples on the limited commission, instructed them, ***“And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.”*** (Matt 10.14-15). Those who need the gospel should hear it. We do not have the ability, or the right, to decide if a person is not worth the time and effort to share the gospel with them. In the event that there is a rejection, our own sense, and the instructions of Christ, should guide us so that we will not arbitrarily refuse to teach someone who is lost. Christ went to those whose lives were torn by sin and desperation. He went to those who needed the gospel the most. He also taught others as well, but many times those whose lives were “right” in their own eyes rejected him. In our daily activities we will meet people from all walks of life and from all economic levels. We have all heard stories of those who were converted by hearing the gospel after others had refused to approach them or had written them off as unreachable. No one is unreachable when it comes to teaching. We need to utilize every opportunity to teach anyone who will listen. Only God knows the heart of the people that we meet and a failure to teach them may rob a soul of salvation.

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