

Matthew 7:1-6

Spiritual Discrimination

Introduction:

There is a most provocative statement here given by our Lord who tells us in many words that not everyone will be saved, by the very fact that He tells not to give the good Word of God to everyone and everybody. "Do not give"... "Do not throw"... pearls before the swine.

This would not be acceptable in our age. We dislike excluding anyone and we think we are a better person for being inclusive. Even in the Christian Church we know not everyone is to be a teacher because not everyone can digest solid food. (Heb. 5:14) James says we should not have many teachers – (Jam. 3:1) Paul says to Elders that there should not be novices as teachers. (I Tim. 3:6)

I. Bad Judgment – v.1-5

A. Stop judging

1. Context – Pharisees exercised bad judgment – Luke 16:15
2. Judging in a condemning way – John 7:24

B. Identifying Hypocrisy – v.3-4

1. Saw dust versus a large beam
2. The Pharisee and the Publican – Luke 18:9-14

C. Critical and Hypercritical

1. Critical is constructive
2. Hypercritical is condemning – (James and John (Luke 9:52-56)

II. Spiritual Discernment – v.6

A. Instruction to be discerning – v.6, 15

B. Discernment in the State and Church

1. Magistrates – Rom. 13:4
2. Elders – False gospel - Gal. 1:8,9
3. Discipline on heretics – (II Tim. 2:14-19; Titus 3:9-11)
4. Discipline of Antichrists – (I John 2:18,22; II John1:7; 9-10)

C. Immediate Context:

1. We are to be discriminating regarding the pearls we possess.
2. We are to be discrimination as to who are the dogs and swine.

Examples: As we look at our Lord's Life.

1. The Pharisee and the tax collector – Matt. 23:15
2. Pilate and Herod
3. The Jews who rejected Paul and Barnabas's ministry **Turn To: Acts 13:44-48**

D. Biblical Evangelism:

1. We must learn to be discriminate and not be mechanical.
2. We must learn one type of person from another – (Pilate versus Herod)
3. We must be careful about indiscriminate distribution of the Scripture – Acts 8:26-35
4. We must be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit is working in the conversation of the Gospel – Matt. 5:6