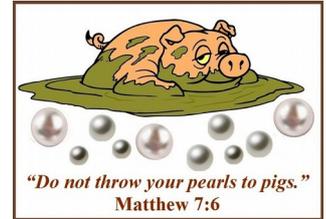


A Case of Presenting Pearls to Pigs

Jesus was careful what he spoke to people. Apart from speaking only what Holy Spirit told him, he discerned to speak different messages to different groups. To his disciples he taught Kingdom knowledge.¹ To the general public he spoke mostly in parables or kingdom principles². To the religious leaders he spoke sternly or in riddles or straight to the point about spiritual reality. [Graphic]³



Jesus told his disciples that, in regard to a hard saying spoken from the Spirit, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given”⁴. In this regard, he concludes, “He who is able to accept it, let him accept it”⁵. One one occasion his saying was so strong that most of his company of disciples stopped following him.⁶ When he was being interrogated by the Jewish hierarchy after his arrest, he said very little.⁷ When he was with Pilate, he declared for the first time that he was a king from a different realm.⁸

For us, we were advised by the Spirit a year or so ago to do the same – to watch what we say and to whom we say it. Certain people will not have the background knowledge or understanding to receive the revelations we have received, so in most cases we only speak to a small group of like-minded believers. Regarding this situation, Jesus gave a short parabolic word:

Matthew 7:6 (ISV) – *“Never give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before pigs. Otherwise, they will trample them with their feet and then turn around and attack you.”*

This reference is usually covered by the KJV statement: "Don't cast pearls before swine".

We don't like this expression in our modern non-offending society because the word 'swine' has the connotation of being offensive. Actually, 'swine' is a common agricultural term for pigs that urban people are unaware of.

The background to what Jesus meant in this mini-parable is: Pigs don't see the value of pearls as a gem because they don't understand aesthetic beauty. They will walk all over them thinking they are just useless rocks. They may even attack you because they are not receiving what they want (food) or because they are aggressive.

The point he was making from this was: The things of the Spirit ('holy' knowledge) is not acceptable to the uninitiated or antagonistic. They don't understand its value and are unable to receive it. They may even be aggressive towards the speaker as what they are saying offends them or irritates them.

Where does that place us as we are called to preach, teach and explain the Gospel of the Kingdom as well as Kingdom dynamics?

There will be many who will not want to hear us. These are in 2 groups: atheists and the religious. To the non-believer, the message of the kingdom is God's most important message – an invitation to join his family with all its benefits.

Atheists, however, discount the spiritual realm and don't want to hear anything about God. Many are, however, are prepared to talk about the spirituality of others, as long as you don't mention “Jesus” or “church”. We can get a 'leg in' here if we talk about spirituality rather than the Kingdom. Being covert can be quite productive for the Kingdom.

For some weird reason, religious people regard any message different to their own theology as an error, so

1 – Matt 13:11; Mark 4:11

2 – e.g. Matthew 5:1-12

3 – Copyright permission to use graphic received from Mission Venture Ministries on 24-3-2017 (missionventureministries.wordpress.com)

4 – Matthew 19:11

5 – Matthew 19:12

6 – John 6:60

7 – Matthew 26:63

8 – John 18:33-37

they literally 'switch off' right 'in front of your eyes'. When we present the message of the Kingdom they reject it, often off-handedly, out of fear of being deceived. They have been taught that their brand of Christianity is safe from deception, not knowing that if they were deceived, they wouldn't know it because the deceived don't know they are deceived. Such is the nature of deception.

Religious theology and biblical theology can't handle the Kingdom message as it is a foreign concept. It is seen as a distraction, an error, a heresy, a deception, dangerous or unimportant. Such a reaction comes from having a theology based on the Gospel of Salvation – it's all about the blood and the cross. Or alternatively, it's a Jewish/Messianic theology which by default declares that the Bible is all about Israel.

So, what about 'pearls presented to pigs'?

We must discern whether people we are speaking to are listening or not, whether they are listening with their spirit or not, and whether we are imparting anything to them. If any answer to these is NO, then we need to stop what we are saying or 'change tack'. In most cases where there is no impact, we should stop talking about the kingdom altogether as we are "casting pearls before swine".

Remember, the Kingdom message is so critical that Jesus spoke a short parable about it which is known as 'The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price'⁹. The gist of the message in it was that the Kingdom is worth giving everything up to have it – it's that good.

Here's a couple of my experiences with 'casting...':

1. On one occasion in the 1980s I had a 5-hour discussion with a believer who followed the Law because they said it was compulsory (well not all the Torah). I made no impact on him from my time of vigorous 'discussion' as he continued in the same belief right up to today.
2. Recently a number of us were at a teaching session I was giving that ended in a vigorous discussion with one of the attendees about the centrality of the Bible to their faith. Although I mentioned that the bible is a useful source to gain knowledge for life and for evaluating everything, I declared that sound doctrine was the standard – which includes scripture. They were not convinced. The conversion went for about an hour, and then continued after the session for another 1½ -2 hours. I don't think they changed their mind.

Interestingly, our Kingdom Living Community was told by the Spirit some time ago not to waste our time trying to convince others – it is too valuable to waste on those who aren't interested. Unfortunately, old the religious side of us can't help wanting to change everyone to believe what we believe – even if it's the truth. We have to learn to let hearers make the choices themselves. They are the ones who are accountable for it, not us, once we've spoken what we need to.

By the way, our enthusiasm for the Kingdom message is not an indication the we are right or that everyone else should follow us.

So, don't waste time trying to get the message of the Kingdom across to others if they aren't responsive. **Your only responsibility is to follow what the Spirit tells you to do and say** - no more than that.

Don't try to convince others. In most cases revelation is required to accept what you are saying and without it the hearer can't receive it. Revelation is required for such things as:

- The Gospel of the Kingdom
- The centrality of the Kingdom
- Coming out of the church system
- Revelatory living
- Sonship
- Eliminating all religion
- Eliminating all legalism
- Being a member of a Kingdom community
- Becoming Kingdom family
- Desiring spiritual maturity

DON'T GET INTO ARGUMENTS. They are not productive as the soul and mind are in charge, not your spirit.

DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH HEATED OR VIGOROUS DISCUSSIONS. We are relying on the Spirit to impart our words into others, so emotion is counter-productive.



– Here's a great example of someone who responds to the Kingdom message:

“Dr. Myles Munroe discusses KINGDOM Paradigm with Benny Hinn (Seg. 1 of 2)”
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNArJ8qv8g)

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