

Remember that God is Judge

Matthew 7:1-6

Halifax: 22 August 2004

Introduction

This week we are beginning a new section in our study of the great sermon that Jesus preached: “The Sermon on the Mount.”

- This part is found in chapter 7 of Matthew’s gospel.

In this last section of His sermon,

- Jesus once again stresses the fact that you live and walk before the all-seeing eyes of God (something He has been emphasising all along)...
- But in this portion, He brings into sharp focus the fact that you (everyone of you) will be brought before God as judge.
 - In light of this fact, Jesus urges you to be sure that you are in step with God’s calling.
 - Make sure that you are coming to Him in the way He has appointed—
 - We are fallen sinners, and it is not possible for us to devise our own way—
 - Instead, we are advised to come in God’s way.
 - So many people get this backward,
 - They want God to get in step with them and their way of approaching Him and serving Him and of getting on in the world...
 - Jesus tells us in this chapter that there is a broad way that most people take that leads to destruction...
 - He tells us that there are many false prophets who are ready to support you and lead you in such ways, and warns you against following them.
 - He concludes His entire sermon with that very searching parable that urges you to be sure that you are established on the rock instead of on the sand.
 - The conclusion is:
 - Be sure that you are building on the foundation of Jesus Christ instead of some other foundation...
 - God is the judge and you must fall in line with His way of salvation and enter into the Kingdom of His Son or you will be utterly ruined at the end.
 - He is the Judge, and we must all answer to Him...

- It really doesn't matter what anybody else thinks.
- It only matters what **He** thinks.
- He is the Judge over all.

TRANS> That is where Jesus is headed in this last section of this sermon which we find in chapter 7.

- Today we are looking at the first five verses of chapter 7.
 - And in these, we also find the emphasis that God is the Judge to whom we must all answer.
 - And here the particular focus can be stated like this:
 - **When you find some fault in your neighbour,**
 - **remember that God is the Judge.**
- As you go along through life in this world,
 - You will often find wrong in the lives of the people around you.
 - You will be in a position to correct them...
 - And in every case, you must remember that God is judge.
 - If you are having work done on your house, and you realise the work was not done completely...
 - remember that God is the judge
 - If you just learned that your good friend told a lie,
 - remember that God is the judge.
 - If you happen to be a judge in a court of law,
 - you must remember that God is the judge.
 - If you are elder speaking to a member who sinned,
 - remember that God is the judge.
 - If you a parent dealing with a child who has just disobeyed,
 - remember that God is the judge.
 - If you are a discussing some other culture and have found error in them,
 - remember that God is the judge.

TRANS> Again, the overall principle here is:

- When you find some fault in your neighbour, remember that God is the Judge.

I. This is surely what Jesus means when He says:

- **“Judge not, the you be not judged!”**

A. You are not to judge because God is judge.

1. Some who are called Christians get this all wrong.
 - a. You see a professing Christian stumbling around drunk and you go to speak to him about it the following week...
 - What does that professing Christian say?
 - He says, “Judge not that you be not judged!”
 - He uses this verse to tell you that God tells you to leave him alone about it.
 - We live in a very loose, indulgent age.
 - Nobody wants to be called to account for anything.
 - We are rather expected to smile say nothing when we see our neighbour sin...
 - Next week, I am going to show you that sometimes that is what you are supposed to do...
 - But when it is your Christian brother, you are commanded to rebuke him in love.
 - We live in a society where it is generally considered a worse to offense to say that someone has done wrong than it is to do the wrong!
 - It is as if the person who sinned has been mistreated by some harsh, authoritarian person who is being unreasonable...
 - What do you mean? coming after me about getting drunk...
 - Who do you think you are?
 - This whole mentality has gotten into our blood...
 - It has infested the church.

TRANS> There are some who desperately want to believe that almost all rebuke is wrong.

- b. And so they have put such a construction on Jesus’ words: “judge not”
 - to make them mean that you are never to say anything negative to anyone...
 - never to say that your neighbour is wrong or has done wrong.

- 1) But that is to completely misunderstand (or misuse) Jesus' words!
 - Jesus Himself contradicts that interpretation in this very passage!
 - In verse 6, He says that we are to regard some as dogs and swine.
 - We can't possibly do that unless we make some sort of judgement about them...
 - And if you go on to verse 15-20,
 - He tells you that you are supposed to evaluate prophets by their fruit—what is their life producing.
 - You have to make a judgement about them to do this.
 - I could draw upon hundreds of other passages that tell us that it is duty to rebuke and others when they do wrong.
 - In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul spends an entire chapter fussing at the Corinthians for not rebuking the incestuous man in their church.
 - In Galatians 6, he instructs us to go to correct our brother if we find him overtaken by sin.
 - Leviticus 19:17 says:
 - 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.
- 2) To say that Jesus is forbidding us to ever rebuke our neighbour or find fault with Him is in fact an effort to overthrow God's government!
 - When you do not condemn sins that God has condemned,
 - you take issue with Him as the only lawgiver and judge!
 - you rebel against God Himself as if to repeal His laws and reverse His decisions and overturn His judgement seat!
 - I know there are some that have wrongly used God's name to advance their own agenda...
 - You know, they have a political agenda and they bring the name of God in to back it up...
 - That is very wrong...
 - That is what Jesus is condemning here as much as anything when He says "Judge not..."
 - It is not for you to set the standard—that is for God.
 - But you must understand that it is just as much a violation of His words "Judge not" to determine that **no standard** should be upheld as it is to set up your own rules and say that they are God's.

2. The point here is that you are to speak in accordance with what God has said as King and Judge...
 - You are not the Judge, but He is!
 - To ignore what He has said is to rebel against Him as king!
 - Let us consider what Judge not means in our everyday life...
 - a. First, "Judge not," means that you are not to evaluate by your own standard!
 - 1) You do this when you rebuke your neighbour out of personal irritation
 - Parents, you are guilty of this when you rebuke children because you are irritated with them...
 - Even if they did something that was wrong,
 - If you rebuke them because **you** were irritated instead of because they have sinned against God, you are guilty.
 - This will always cause you to be inconsistent because your standard is **you** and your level of irritation instead of God's word.
 - That means that if on Wednesday, you are having a bad day,
 - loud play that would otherwise be allowed will be severely reprimanded...
 - but on Thursday when you are having a good day,
 - disrespectful behaviour will be ignored (because it didn't bother **you**).
 - 2) You do the same thing when you rail on them more because they injured you than you do when they didn't...
 - Suppose your three-year-old knocks over your cherished antique vase when he throws a little ball that you have not forbade him to throw.
 - Because it is your cherished vase, you go into a tirade!
 - "How could you do that? That was my great grandmother's and it's worth hundreds of dollars!"
 - But then the next day, he breaks an old picture frame you were planning to take to Value Village,
 - And he breaks it by swinging a stick that you told him not to swing in the house...
 - But instead of rebuking him, you laugh because he looked cute swinging the stick.
 - You have made yourself judge instead of God!

- God has said, “Children obey your parents,”
 - He is the judge, but you have set up your standard based on irritation and injury to you.
 - You have given him a very clear lesson that personal comfort and material possessions are more important than God’s Word.
 - That is your judgement, not God’s!
 - You have forgotten that God is judge!
- 3) I think you can all relate to this idea of evaluating things by your own standard instead of God’s...
- You like a worship service because it made you feel good about yourself...
 - Our society is appalled at Hitler for killing the Jews, but we consider it a misdemeanour to suck millions of babies out of their mother’s womb by the millions.
 - A man from the church is appalled at the noisy neighbours and goes to rebuke them, but he ignores his own rudeness and the fact that he has never greeted them on the street or assisted them when they were sick.
 - We get up in arms about the guy who stole the furniture off our porch, but then we go to work and devise ways to fatten our profits by underpaying our staff and cheating on our taxes.
 - We blast people for smoking, but we can’t pull ourselves away from the dinner table.
 - Jesus refers to this kind of inconsistency of this in verse 3:
 - as looking at the spec in your brothers eye,
 - but not noticing the plank (or beam) in your own eye!
 - You have a glaring sin in your own life, but you are picking at others.
 - You are operating according to your own standard when you do that as if you were the judge instead of God!

TRANS> Because God is Judge, “judge not,” means that you are not to judge based on your own standard, but God’s.

b. Secondly, because God is Judge, “judge not,” means that you are not to set your own penalties.

1) Do you remember Cain’s descendant, Lamech?

- He boasted about carrying out his own penalty:

- Ge 4:23-24: Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me. If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."
 - Lamech ignored God's standard of judgement and set himself up as judge.
- 2) It is not for to determine what penalty should be imposed, but to submit to what God has said—He is the Judge...
- a) For example, if you find out that someone has been gossiping about you, it is not for you to decide that you are going to avoid that person!
 - God has not called you to do that...
 - He has called you to go to them and try to reconcile with them—and if that fails, to go again, taking someone else with you.
 - b) If your husband has not finished a project around the house,
 - God has not given you the authority to refuse to iron his shirt or to refuse your duty to him as a wife.
 - c) Vengeance belongs to God, it is not for us to determine someone's punishment...
 - Even if you are a judge in a court of law,
 - God has set bounds on what punishments you can impose.
 - You are not to judge for yourself, but for Him!

TRANS> So then, "judge not," means that you are not to judge based on your own standard, nor are you to determine a person's punishment for his wrong.

- God is the judge, not you...
 - And there is a third thing it means:
- c. "Judge not," means that you are not to deal with matters that God has not given you to deal with...
- 1) First, you are not to jump to conclusions when you don't have conclusive facts...
 - For example, if you see a student who doesn't spend much time studying making excellent marks, you are not to just assume that he has cheated.
 - If someone fails to speak to you, you are not to assume that that person has something against you.
 - 2) Secondly, you are not to judge someone's heart and motives...

- If you see someone cutting grass on the Lord's Day, you are not to immediately assume that he is not a Christian or is being rebellious—
 - He may not have been taught about observing the Lord's Day and may not understand it.
 - If you see someone that keeps falling into the same sin, you are not to assume on that basis that the person is not a true Christian.
 - God has not even given elders the authority to judge a man's heart—that judgement is reserved for God alone.
 - A person is accepted into the church based on what he says he believes and based on his visible conduct.
- 3) Thirdly, there are those bounds that God has set for you according to your station in life.
- As a church member, you are to judge preaching based on the word of God, but you are not given authority to discipline someone—that is the elder's job.
 - And the elders are not given authority to execute or impose fines, but only to remove persons from the church.
 - Nor has God given them authority to impose celibacy or to establish food laws (a no drinking policy for example—Romans 14 says plainly that a brother who drinks wine is not to be judged.)
 - Likewise, the civil magistrate is given authority to impose fines and to execute persons, but God has not given her the authority to oppose the use of the rod for the correction of children...
 - Nor is she given the authority to enforce emperor worship or something of that nature.

TRANS> So you see then, the bottom line is that God is the Judge...

- You are never to set yourself up as judge in His place.
 - Your judgement is always to be subservient to Him— not autonomous!
 - His standard is to be your standard,
 - His penalties are to be the only penalties you impose, and
 - His bounds are bounds you are to keep.
- B. When you do set yourself up as judge, you set yourself up to be judged!
- Jesus says, “Judge not that you be not judged!”
1. You will be judged because you have presumed to take God's place!
 - a. You have dared to challenge the sacred throne of the Almighty God!

- This is no small offense!
 - This is treason—and not just against an earthly kingdom, but against His majesty in Heaven,
 - against the Judge whose kingdom remains from generation to generation while other kingdoms rise and fall!
 - against the judge who has the power to destroy both body and soul in Hell!
- b. You are His representative, whether in your home, in a church court, or in a civil court...
- But instead of submitting to Him, you have gone about to establish your own laws and your own penalties!
 - James says that when you do that,
 - you are not a doer of the law, but a judge of it, and one who speaks evil of it!
 - Instead of using your place to serve God and to show forth His glory, you have acted as if you were God!
 - You have stood in judgement of Him!
2. God will deal very severely with you for such impudence!
- As Jesus says in verse 2,
 - “you will be judged!”
- a. If you are an unbeliever, you will be brought before God at the last day—
- You see the glory and majesty of the King whose throne you tried to take!
 - You will be seized with dread and terror, and there will be no escape.
 - You will be cast into the Lake of fire with the Devil who also sought to dethrone the living God!
- b. If you are a believer and you setting yourself up as judge,
- You can be sure that God will chasten you.
 - He will not allow His children to rebel against Him like that without correcting them.
 - As Paul told the Corinthians, who were chastened with sickness and even death:
 - 1 Cor 11:32: “When we are judged we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

- If you do not have this chastening, then it is a bad sign that you are not a son. Hebrews 12:7 says:
 - Heb 12:7: But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
 - How many parents have been chastened by seeing their children cut off from God's covenant...
 - and for what reason but that they judged them in the ways I spoke about before!
 - God's chastening can be very severe!

TRANS> There is also a second kind of judgement for believers...

c. It is the judgement you will receive at the end—on the day of resurrection.

- Paul talks about this kind of judgement in 2 Cor 5:10. He says,
 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - This is not to determine **where** you will spend eternity, for it speaks of those who belong to the body of Christ...
 - But it is to determine what happens to you in the realm of glory.
 - Clearly there are greater and lesser rewards, and those who have set themselves up as judges will suffer loss.

3. Jesus says that God's judgement for this will be proportional to the way you have exercised autonomous judgement against others...

- v. 2: "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.
- a. That means that if you have blasted your child for breaking the vase, God will blast you for destroying His image in that child and in yourself!
 - He will hold you to it!
 - You will suffer God's chastisement now and loss in eternity.
- b. It means that if you have punished others more severely than God called you to punish them,
 - He will punish you more severely than He punishes others for the same sins—
 - In other words,
 - Since you took it upon yourself to make the consequences for your neighbour's sins worse than God did,

- God will make the consequences for you sins worse than He would have.
- c. If you have imposed standards on others that God did not impose on them, God will do the same to you...
 - Ordinarily, God's judgement is less severe for the servant who did not know His will—
 - He is beaten with few stripes...
 - But the one who knew his master's will and did not do it is beaten with many stripes.
 - But because you judged your brother for things he did not know and even held him to things that were not from God...
 - God will hold you to things you do not know as if you did know them.
 - With the same measure you used, it will be measured back to you.
 - God's judgement is like a boomerang.
 - Haman unjustly builds a gallows for Mordecai
 - and God sees to it that Haman hangs there himself!

TRANS> God does not take it lightly when you set yourself up as judge!

So remember the principle!

- When you find some fault in your neighbour, Remember that God is the Judge!

II. What a difference it will make in the way you come to your neighbour about his fault when you remember that God is the Judge!

A. You will come to him with true gentleness as a fellow sinner...

1. You will come as a fellow sinner who recognises that God is the judge of you both!
 - a. You will not come with a magisterial attitude of superiority,
 - You will come as one who is constantly dealing with sin in your own life and who feels the struggle of it all.
 - 1) You will come as one who looks at your own sin as a log and at your neighbour's sin as a speck.
 - Is he a new Christian or an untaught Christian?
 - You will come to help him, but not with an attitude of superiority...

- You will come with full consideration of all the light you have been given and how little you have benefited from it...
- and of how often God has had to hold you back or keep you away from temptation lest you had destroyed yourself.

2) Did he rob a bank?

- Rather than saying, “How could you do such a thing?”
- You will have already examined your own heart and seen the covetousness that is there and considered well how easily you might have fallen into the same offense if the circumstances had been right.
- Even in preparing to speak to your brother about the bank robbery,
 - you would have already prepared yourself by repenting of the covetousness in your own heart.

b. You cannot come to your brother properly until you have learned the lessons at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount—

1) The Beatitudes—

- Until you are truly poor in spirit, seeing that you have no resources to please God in yourself and that if you were judged without mercy, you would be condemned...
- Until you truly come to mourn about yourself as one who has rebelled against God and told lies about Him as His image...and are broken when His will is not done by you and others...
- Until you are truly meek, and ready to follow Him and submit to His judgement...
- Until you are hungry and thirsting for righteousness—that you really want that for yourself and for your brother!
- Until you are merciful because you see yourself as one who has been given way more than you deserve instead of one who has been cheated.

2) Until you have dealt with yourself,

- You won't be able to “see clearly” to help your brother!
- That's what Jesus says in verse 5...
 - “First remove the plank in your own eye, then you will **see clearly** to remove the spec from your brothers eye.”
 - You can't see until you have been before God as judge yourself!
- I want you to notice something here!

- Jesus does not say that you should not try to remove the spec from your brother's eye.
 - It is in fact your duty to do so when you see his fault...
 - But Jesus is saying that you can't do it if you have not dealt with sin in your own life!
 - You are simply not equipped to help him.
- But this should never be used as an excuse!
 - Do not say, "Oh well, I see sin in my brother, but I sure can't help him because look at all the problems I have!"
 - Understand that you are not excused by that!
 - Now you have two sins!
 - First, the plank that you are not dealing with in your own eye.
 - Second, your failure to assist your brother when he was overtaken by sin.
 - Hurry up and deal with the plank—
 - Then you can help your brother also as a fellow sinner under God instead of as a judge.
 - It makes such a difference when you come conscious of the fact that you both must answer to God!

TRANS> Not only will you come to him as a fellow sinner who must also answer to God as your judge...

2. You will also come to Him as one who recognises the mercy that God has shown you!
 - a. You will come,
 - Not as a judge, but as a minister of mercy!
 - Not in self-righteousness to condemn him, but in humility to restore him.
 - b. Oh parents, how often do you forget this with your children?
 - You are not there just to call them down for their sins!
 - You are there to point them to Jesus the Saviour!
 - You are to be like your Saviour who came into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved!
 - Even with a one year old—
 - Teach them to ask forgiveness...

- Pray with them for forgiveness...
 - Pray with them for God's grace to help them overcome their sin.
- c. If you are basking in the mercy of God yourself...
- You will want others to come and join you!
 - You will want them to see the glory of God's mercy!
 - You will not come as a judge, but as a minister of mercy.

TRANS> It is a funny combination here—

- But it is not until you have known God as the judge of you that you can come to rejoicing in His mercy to you.
- If you have not seen your own sin before God, you will come in the pride of self-righteousness and will not be able to see clearly to help your brother to remove the spec in his eye.

B. What a reprehensible thing it is when you come as one who has not dealt with your own sin!

1. There is this insipid rejoicing when you come to correct your neighbour with a plank in your eye!

a. It is a very devilish kind of rejoicing—

- 1) A rejoicing that is secretly delighted that he has fallen into sin!
- 2) You pretend that you are broken up about it and that you want to help him find a way out, but really you are glad...
 - You are glad because it makes you feel better about your own sins!
 - It eases your guilty conscience and helps you feel superior.

b. Before you recoil from this in self-righteous indignation, let me probe a little!

- 1) Can you claim that you are free from this insipid rejoicing when a brother falls?
 - Do you not find that you are quite anxious to hear about another's fall?
 - Or to hear a story about a church that has apostatised and what things they do!
 - Are you not tickled by the thought of inquiring into the faults of others?

2) Oh that God would make us pure!

2. Jesus calls this hypocrisy.

a. Just consider it...

- There you are, coming to your brother who is caught in sin...
 - coming to help him remove the spec in his eye...
 - and the whole time you know that you have a plank in your eye.
 - There you are, making a big deal about what he has done...
 - speaking about how awful it is as if you are so concerned...
 - speaking as if it is your greatest desire to see God's will done on earth as it is in heaven...
 - That you desire for everyone to serve King Jesus wholeheartedly...
- b. But you are not **really** concerned.
- If you were **really** concerned **you** would be serving Him wholeheartedly!
 - You are not interested in helping someone else serve Him if **you** are refusing to repent of your own sin!
 - It is nothing but hypocrisy!
- c. And brothers and sisters, I don't think there is a one of us that can claim that we are entirely free of this hypocrisy!
- We may want to help people spiritually to a certain extent...
 - But to what degree do you **really** want to see Christ honoured?
 - Is there not a pretty strong desire for your own honour as one who is a spiritual help to others...
 - or perhaps there is just very little concern about your brother's sin at all?

Conclusion> May God have mercy on us all!

- Oh that we might remember that He is in the picture—it's not just about us, it's all about Him!
- He is the Judge, He is the One that is rightly to be pleased!
 - We have so many other agendas, but this is the only thing that really matters!
 - You are not the judge, but God is.
 - If only we could remember that!
 - All judgement belongs to God.

Therefore, get off of the judge's bench!

- You do not belong there!
- You are one of the sons of Adam who must answer to the Judge.

- You are of the fallen human race that has been sentenced to eternal death.
- But look, there is the Saviour, the Son of God, Jesus Christ!
 - He has come and joined Himself to us and to our plight.
 - He has actually placed Himself under that same sentence of eternal death that was pronounced against us by His Father and by Him.
- See how He comes to us, not with judgement, but lowly, humble, as one bringing salvation!
 - He has not come to condemn us, but to save us, to rescue us, to deliver us from God's wrath and curse.
 - He has identified fully with the problem
 - He has come to bear God's sentence of judgement for us.
 - If He has come like this, how could you ever come to anyone as an arrogant judge?
 - There He is, He has borne that judgement for us and has been raised from the dead...
 - There He is, sitting at the right hand of God the Father!
 - There He is, the One who conquered sin and death and the curse for us!
- Come to Him and you will find mercy for your soul!
 - Even though you have made yourself too many times a judge...
 - He has mercy for that too if you believe on His name!
 - The Father has now delivered all judgement into His hands, and He promises to save all those that come to Him, not one will be lost.
 - This is the plan that God the judge has devised for sinners.
 - There is no other plan but this.
 - Make sure you are in Him.
 - Don't rely on your own judgement.
 - God is the only Judge.

Please stand and let us call on His name together.

Lord God, Holy Judge of all the earth,

- We come before you now with great thanksgiving for your mercy!
- How could it be that you who see us so clearly should choose to have mercy on us!

- You have seen our treason!
- You have seen how we set ourselves up as judge and sought to overthrow you!
- You have seen how even after our salvation, our old ways still overtake us.
- You have seen the secret rejoicing that goes on in our hearts when we hear of a brother in sin!
- You have seen how little we truly rejoice in your reign and how faint our desires that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- Have mercy on us, O righteous Judge!
- How we thank you for the blood of Jesus that is able to cleanse us from all sin!
 - Cleanse us now by that blood as we plead with you!
 - And grant us your Spirit to make us holy—
 - to deliver us from our desire to judge.
 - Bring us gladly under your dominion and keep us there!

We pray that this glorious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ would spread in all the earth!

- We pray that it would flourish in our fair city...
- That you would strike the inhabitants of this city with a strong sense of what we have done in rebelling against you...
 - And that you would cause us then to rejoice in the true gospel!
 - Make your face shine on us and be gracious to us.

We pray that you would give us grace to truly and sincerely help each other to walk in your truth...

- Make the elders here and example of the life you have called us too...
 - A life of dependence on Jesus Christ as sinners.

We pray that you would bless this congregation...

- That you would add to our numbers...
- That you would provide for our financial needs...
- That you cause us to glorify you in all our ways.

And we pray for each member in his or her private life...

- Grant that each one might see you in personal prayer...
- Grant that each one might live to be a blessing to his neighbour and to seek his neighbour's good...
- Grant that each one might be faithful to fulfil his or her calling each day.
- Provide strength and health and wisdom to each one as each day may require.

We ask all these things in the strong name of Jesus Christ, AMEN

III. And so Jesus concludes by telling us who it is that we are to help (or not help).

- who it is that you are to reprove when you find him in a fault...

A. In verse 6 He says:

- “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”
- 1. The holy things and the pearls are the Christian counsel we bring to those who are caught in a sin.
 - a. As I have shown you, you come to them as a sinner to another sinner to help them be restored to God’s will.
 - b. You come with the word of God which here is referred to as what is holy and as pearls because it is precious—more precious than the finest gold!
 - c. We bring these holy precious things to our brother with a view to leading him out of his sin and into joyful fellowship with the Lord.
- 2. But who are these dogs and pigs that we are not to give these holy precious things to?
 - a. Some have suggested that it refers to those who are especially hardened in their sin.
 - The Bible teaches by precept and example that if we preach God’s kingdom somewhere and the people reject it,
 - we are to shake the dust of our feet and move on to the next place.

- It is a true principle, but I don't believe that is what is being spoken about here.
- b. I would suggest that the dogs and the swine refer to anyone who is an unbeliever!
- 1) Jesus Himself forbade His apostles to go to the Gentiles to minister...
 - and when a Gentile woman came to Him He told her that it was not proper to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs...
 - She was not a part of the covenant family, and so Jesus refused to help her. She was a dog who was outside the city of God.
 - But do you remember what happened?
 - The woman said,
 - "Yes Lord, but even the little dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table."
 - And when Jesus heard this, he commended her great faith and gave her what she sought.
 - But you see the principle here...
 - He was not willing to take the holy things and give it to those who were not God's children.
 - It turned out that this woman was one of God's children by faith,
 - but it was not until that faith was demonstrated that Jesus was ready to help her.
- 2) So what is the point of verse 6 then?
 - a) Jesus is telling us not to go to remove specs from the eyes of unbelievers.
 - We are not to judge them (in the good sense of bringing God's word to correct their faults),
 - but we are to give holy things to God's covenant people.
 - b) The reason for this is that they will not be able to receive it!
 - It is one of the most foolish things for a minister to go and do marriage counseling with an unbeliever!
 - Such a man has forgotten that God is the judge!
 - The happier their marriage, the worse off they will be.
 - The marriage is a tiny spec...
 - But there is this huge plank that is in their eye!

- The plank needs to be dealt with first of all!
- c) You see, any counsel that is truly of God cannot be detached from God!
 - Its whole purpose is not just to make things better...
 - Its whole purpose is enable us to glorify God.
 - We are doing nothing good until we are living for Him and knowing Him in all our ways.

B. What should you give to unbelievers then?

1. You should deal with the glaring issue—that they need to be reconciled to God!
 - a. That they need to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.
 - b. Do you see how useless it is to work on their marriage or their drinking problem or their financial mismanagement—
 - What good is it if they are still rebels against Jesus Christ?
 - What good is it if they are still under God’s wrath and curse?
2. Peter tells us what will happen to such persons if we clean them up on the inside but if there is no new birth—no change of heart...
 - 2 Peter 3:22: But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."
 - They do not know what to do with God’s holy things—
 - And their last state becomes worse than the first.
 - We err greatly when we try to “Christianise” unbelievers without first calling them to be reconciled to God through Christ.