

**Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**  
**SoM, Part 22: Greater Righteousness, Part 10**

Last time...a very strong exhortation against being self-righteously legalistic and pridefully judgmental of others  
How do we move on from there?

This time...the conclusion of “Greater Righteousness” needed to enter into the Kingdom of God

v6     holy...dogs...pearls...swine:

After teaching about our qualifications to judge others in v1-5 (none!), Jesus now teaches about discernment: Do not give holy and priceless things to unholy people who disdain those things

holy: that which is consecrated to God, pure, blameless

dogs: unclean, undomesticated animals

Ex 22:31     ye shall be holy men unto me: neither shall ye eat *any* flesh  
*that is* torn of beasts in the field; ye shall cast it to the dogs

Matt 15:21-28

dogs = Gentiles, heathens, pagans

Phil 3:2-3

dogs = Gentiles/Jews whose confidence is in flesh

Rev 22:11-15

dogs = unjust, filthy (sins), believe the devil's lie

pearls: a treasure

Job 28:18

pearls in a list of valuables, inferior to wisdom

5x in NT

pearls = valuable

Matt 13:45-46

most valuable of all: kingdom of heaven

swine: unclean

holy and pearls: the priceless things of God and His Kingdom,  
the Gospel of salvation, our testimony of what God has done for us  
(mercy and grace vs judgment)

dogs and swine: vile, unbelieving, unthankful, evil people...  
mockers and blasphemers of God who have “unworthy ears”

Do not give the priceless things of God to unworthy people who abjectly refuse  
to see the value in them and who covet the things of the world/flesh

Seeing value in the priceless things of God requires spiritual discernment

1 Cor 2:6-16

Those with the mind of Christ can discern

- the things of God
- those who do not have the mind of Christ

We share the Good News with those who have the spirit of the world but not the Spirit of God – an invitation from God to receive eternal life that is in Jesus Christ

Rom 1:16-17

the power of God unto salvation

1 Cor 1:21-24

power of God and wisdom of God

Prov 2:1-5

we invite them to as we did

Yet most reject the gift of God because they are offended

The Cross is offensive to carnal/fleshly/worldly man

Jesus came not with peace but with a sword (Matt 10:34)

The unbelieving, unthankful, vile, evil (or some combination of those) people

- reject the
  - power of God
  - wisdom of God
  - grace of God
  - God's invitation to receive His gift of eternal life
- discard the priceless Gospel as if it were garbage suitable for dunghill
- twist it to use it to harm the messenger of the Gospel...  
turn on the messenger of God's love and grace

When they do, we are not to take the rejection personally and debate or argue with them...but to leave them with our witness

With the help of the Holy Spirit (spiritual gifts of word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits), we are to “move on”

Is 11:2            the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

Luke 9:1-4        whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them

Acts 13:44-52

Prov 9:7-8

spiritually discerned or not

Prov 23:9

know when to hold em, fold 'em, walk away

Our calling is to be witnesses of Jesus Christ...NOT to save the world

v7-8 Ask...seek...knock:

The things of God are for those who hear the witness of Jesus Christ and  
ask, seek, knock

Ask:

How?

John 14:13-14 **in Jesus' name/power/authority,**

Jesus will do, for Father's glory

John 15:16 in Jesus' name, Father will do

John 16:24 ask in Jesus' name and you shall receive

1 John 5:14-15 this is the **confidence** that we have in him, that, if  
we ask any thing **according to his will**, he heareth  
us: And if we **know** that he hear us, whatsoever we  
ask, we know that we have the petitions that we  
desired of him

Heb 4:16 **with boldness**

For what?

Wisdom and understanding (1 Kings 3:3-9 by son of David)

Deliverance and guidance from evil (Matt 6:13, 2 Chron 20:12)

Inheritance (Ps 2:6-8 by Son of David)...in Whom we are "in"

- Eternal life (1 John 5:11-12)
- the lost
- not material stuff (Luke 12:15)

When?

Continuously

Seek:

What?

Ps 105:4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face  
evermore

Is 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye  
upon him while he is near

Ps 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give  
thee the desires of thine heart

Deut 4:29 shall find if seek with all heart and soul

Jer 29:13 seek and search with all heart

Prov 8:11-21 seek Lord, wisdom, understanding, righteousness

Amos 8:11-12

When?

Continuously

Knock:

Where?

At a closed door, expecting it to be opened, and waiting for it to be opened

When?

Continuously

For whom?

Song 5:1-8

Song is about the love the Son of David has for His espoused and her love for Him

v1: Solomon, son of David

v2-8: Abishag, beautiful virgin

Q: Is the reverse true?

Rev 3:20 by Jesus Who is asking, seeking, knocking on our hearts

Every one: the Kingdom of God is

- inclusive – whosoever will, every, all
- exclusive – John 14:6, 1 Cor 2:2
- as wide and as narrow as Jesus Christ (to be developed next week)

v9-11 bread...stone...fish...serpent...good things:

bread and fish – staples of the people's diet in the Galilee

stone and serpent – worthless and evil/harmful things

Matt 4:1-4 with Deut 8:3

These are rhetorical questions, the obvious answer is “No!”

Answers we give as parents, answers we got from our parents

But my father, a “good man”,

- did not give me the best gifts
- did not keep all his promises
- forsook me, abandoned me, left me an orphan (he died)

If we who are evil by nature (sin, no good) know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more so does our Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him?

Father: relationship with children (John 1:12)

His nature is good (Matt 19:17)

He is the Giver of every good and perfect gift...especially His Spirit, the Spirit of eternal life that is in His Son

Luke 11:9-13

regeneration

John 3:5, 16

Eph 1:13-14, John 20:22

Titus 3:5-6

the promise of the Father

Joel 2:28-29

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:4-5

Acts 2

Zech 12:10

Thus, the “Ask, seek, knock, good gifts” applies to

- The Greater Righteousness needed to enter into the Kingdom of God (Ch 5:20)
- being born-again of the Spirit of God
- the baptism of Jesus Christ, the promise of the Father
- then, now, and the future...to whosoever will believe

Let us not lose sight of

- the sufficiency of Jesus Christ for salvation from eternal death

2 Cor 3:5      Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God

2 Cor 12:8-9

- the simplicity that is in Jesus Christ

2 Cor 11:2-3      For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.  
But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ

- certainty and truth of Eph 2:8-9 vs uncertainty and deception of salvation by works

v12 men should do to you, do ye even so to them:  
aka...The Golden Rule

B.C., Buddha said, "Don't do to others what you don't want done to you."  
Negative, a counterfeit of God's truth  
Jesus spoke God's Truth, said it in the positive

Luke 6:31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them  
likewise

Deut 24:17-18 do not pervert the judgment of stranger, remember Egypt

"Therefore"...this verse is the summary of the section of Jesus' sermon that  
started in Ch 5:20  
The Greater Righteousness = the Higher Law of Love (Spirit of Law)

Matt 22:36-40  
1. God (v7-8)  
2. Others (v9-11)

The Father initiates...His children respond in kind  
The two witnesses of this: The Law and the Prophets (Matt 5:17)

This verse also sets the stage for the rest of the SoM...the warnings to follow

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...  
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

- be discerning
- ask, seek, knock for Greater Righteousness
- respond in kind as God has dealt with us

Closing Song