

# *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository  
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

54- The Kingdom of Heaven and Its Citizens- Part 34  
*The Uniqueness of Christian Prayer- Part 1*

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Church May 28, 2023

## **Matthew 7:6-14**

**6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.**

**7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

**8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

**9 "Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?**

**10 "Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?**

**11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!**

**12 "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

**13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.**

**14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;  
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

One of the things we have discovered so far in our "Journey" through the Gospel Record written infallibly by the Apostle Matthew- is that, in addition to Jesus coming the first Time to "**seek and to save that which was Lost**" (Luke 19:10)- Jesus was also very busy doing two very important things:

1. He was bringing the Original or the First Covenant to a decisive End

2. He was *establishing* the infinitely superior New Covenant

... and Jesus accomplished both of these two things: In, By, and Through two *other* Things:

1. WHO He was (and is)
2. WHAT He did while He was here.

Now we don't notice this so much today- because all we have ever known is the New Covenant. None of us have lived two minutes underneath the Old Covenant- precisely because of WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus alone has already done- 2,000 years ago.

But this was of *enormous* Importance to the average Jew, who loved God; and who lived back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Because ending the Old Covenant; and establishing the New; was VERY Traumatic; and VERY disconcerting; and VERY troubling to the Jews. So, the average Jew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century didn't *abandon* the Old nor *embrace* the New- easily or quickly. They struggled with it. For many decades. So, even though we would like to think that the Transition of going from the Old to the New was seamless and neat and tidy- it wasn't.

Genuine Believers struggled mightily about how much or how little to obey what God gave to Moses- so much so- that several decades AFTER the Resurrection- many Jews were still sacrificing animals; they were still worshipping Angels; and they were still trying to fit the "square" peg of the Old Covenant into the "round hole" of the New.

And this is *why* the unknown writer of the **Epistle to the Hebrews** was "moved" by God to infallibly pen down- inspired Instructions- that authoritatively taught the believing Jews HOW to completely ABANDON the Old Covenant and fully EMBRACE the New.

But finally, God had to show- *unmistakably*- just how finished He really was with the Old Covenant. So, about 40 years after the Resurrection (70AD)- God moved on a vicious barbarian named, Titus Vespasian- who led the Roman Army as they thundered down "from the North"; destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem; and totally *eliminated* both the Levitical Priesthood as well as the Sanhedrin Court. And with that *unarguable, decisive* Destruction of the *entire* Jewish Way of Life and Worship of God (that has continued to this Day.)- the Jew was *forced* to *radically* alter his Understanding of what Moses had given them.

Let me illustrate how powerful this really was. As you all entered into the Church building this Morning- NONE of you stopped to purchase a "first-born male lamb"- born without spot- to sacrifice to God. Now the Reality is that you probably didn't even think about doing that- as you understand, that because Jesus

has already come (the first Time) and lived and died and risen again- sacrificing an animal would have been worthless. But even more important- it would have also been Sin to you.

But the ONLY Reason you didn't have to do that; the ONLY Reason you could freely- and without any Hesitation or Conviction- DISOBEY a direct Commandment from Moses found repeatedly throughout the first five Books of the Holy Bible- is because the Old Covenant was *abolished*; and the *infinitely* superior New Covenant was *established* 2,000 years ago- because of two things:

1. WHO Jesus was (and continues to be)
2. WHAT Jesus alone has already done

... other than those two things being true- every single one of you would be sinning against God this morning by NOT sacrificing an animal; and you would stand in direct Violation of the Word of God found in the Old Testament.

To think that we sinners can *immediately* contact God; and come into the very Presence of the Owner and Creator of the Universe- and have Him hear our Prayers and move on them- WITHOUT *first* doing all sorts of things *first*- that God told Moses to faithfully write down- is staggering- in and of itself.

To think and believe and to teach that the third Person of the Godhead- God the Holy Spirit- does NOT dwell in any building here in America or even in Jerusalem- but dwells *continually* inside of each one of us- is amazing to even ponder. And that one single Truth- is in direct Contradiction to almost EVERYTHING Moses understood and taught about God; and how we are to worship Him.

So, we should really be amazed at how *easy* it is today- to hear from God; and to have Him hear from us. And so, we should NEVER be guilty of *minimizing* or of *eliminating* our Astonishment at this wondrous Gift called, "*Prayer*".

But Prayer is a *universal* Concept. All of the major Religions throughout all of History- promote "*Prayer*" as the "*Means*" by which Human Beings talk to God. Yet among the literal *thousands* of Man-made Religions and Human Philosophies- Christian Prayer is *distinct* and *separate* and *set-apart* from every other type of Prayer.

And the main Thing that *separates* Christian Prayer from every other type or form of Prayer- offered by any other group of people- is in the fact that the one, true, and living God actually *answers* and *moves* on *our* Prayers!

But the Reason God moves and answers *our* Prayers- is NOT because we are better people than the others- but because we pray, "*in the Name of*"; or "*in accord with the Reputation of*"- the Lord Jesus Christ. So, it is our Faith and Belief and

Hope in WHO Jesus is; and in WHAT Jesus alone has already done (and IS doing; and WILL do)- that sets Christian Prayer *apart* from every other kind of Prayer.

Now I have been faithful to teach you that, in order to understand whatever Verse or Passage we are looking at- *rightly and fully*- REQUIRES that we go through several Steps. And one of the Steps is that we try our best to “*get into the shoes*” of the Man who originally wrote the Verse or Passage; and arrive at the correct “CONTEXT”. Because it doesn’t matter what that Verse or Passage means to *us*. It ONLY matters what that Verse or Passage meant to the Man who originally wrote it- because he had something very specific in mind when God the Holy Spirit “moved” on him as he wrote that Verse or Passage down.

And THAT is what our Time spent in Bible Study is *supposed* to be about: Doing our best to *uncover* and *discover* what the writer *wanted* to say; and what he *meant* by what he said- at the time he wrote it. And sometimes that’s fairly easy. But there are other times- it is very, very difficult- for a number of Reasons. But please allow me to illustrate why all of that is so vital- with a Verse that helps explain the Passage we are looking at this Morning.

When Believers; who genuinely love Jesus; who live in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America read **John 14:14** that says:

**If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.**

... our Eyes focus on the word ...

... **anything** ...

... and the Phrase...

... **I will do it** ...

... because Americans are all about Results.

And this is *why*, when modern Americans read **1Corinthians 14:34&35** that’s says,

**34 The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.**

**35 If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.**

... all they see are the phrases,

... women are to keep silent in the churches ...

... and ...

... it is improper for a woman to speak in church

... which causes great Consternation.

But what the Women of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century saw- and what the Apostle Paul was *emphasizing* was the phrase,

... If they desire to learn anything ...

... which FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HUMAN HISTORY- gave Women the Opportunity to Learn! But you would NEVER know that- unless you arrived at the correct CONTEXT!

So, instead of Paul being a “Neanderthal” and a “Misogynist”- as modern Feminists teach- the Apostle was actually “blazing a Trail”- by allowing Women to Learn- *if they desired to*.

So, we see in **John 14:14**- that Jesus has promised that we can ask Him ANYTHING- and HE WILL DO IT! And so, there are many Books and Videos and Teachings all over this Country where you can learn all about how to get ANYTHING you want from God. And there are several modern-day “*pied-pipers*”, who have literally become Millionaires by fleecing the sheep; and by taking this one Verse completely out of Context- to suggest that our God- Who bled and died because of our wicked Sins- *including* the Sins of Covetousness and loving Money- has somehow given us “*Carte-Blanche*” to completely *ignore* the many Warnings about the Danger of Money and Material Possessions that are found all through the Bible.

But while many of us today- emphasize the word, “**Anything**” and the Phrase, “**I will do it**” found in this Verse- the Jew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century would have emphasized the Phrase, “**IN MY NAME**”- which was a *radical* Concept back in the Day when Jesus actually spoke these words. Because before Jesus spoke these words- NOBODY prayed “*in the Name of Jesus*” or even “*in the Name of God*”. NOT Moses; NOT Abraham; NOT David; and NOT Isaiah. And nobody prayed like that- because God NEVER told anybody to pray like that!

There is NOT a single Verse in any of the 39 Books of the Old Covenant that sounds anything like this Verse. But even though NOBODY was ever told to pray like that- people WERE told how to pray. For example, one of the Conditions from God to answer the Prayers of the ancient Jew- was that the Jew MUST pray to God from *inside* Solomon’s Temple. **2Chronicles 7:15** says,

**Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.**

... so, for many Centuries after God said this- millions of Jews had to travel to Jerusalem and go inside the Temple to pray.

And when the Jews sinned against God and God sent a pagan Nation to destroy them; take them captive; and force them into Slavery in a pagan Land- look what Condition had to be met in order for God to answer their Prayers from **2Chronicles 6:36-39** that says:

**36 "When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near,**

**37 if they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity and have acted wickedly';**

**38 if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which You have given to their fathers and the city which You have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Your name,**

**39 then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.**

... so, here- the Country; the City; and the Temple they *faced* while they prayed- mattered. And under the Old Covenant- that was common. Access to God in Prayer was based on the Land; the City; and the Temple- but NEVER was Prayer offered "*in the Name of*" even God Himself! The ONLY thing that was taught in the Old Testament about God's "Name" was a Prohibition against prophesying; teaching; or preaching, "IN GOD'S NAME"- when God had NOT authorized it- AND instructing the ancient Jews as to WHY God did certain things. But praying in God's "Name" was NEVER mentioned under the Old Covenant.

But that all changed when Jesus walked this earth; and brought that Old Covenant to an End; and established the New. NOW- Access to God in Prayer- was based SOLELY on WHO Jesus is; and on WHAT Jesus alone has already done- and NOT our Location; or whether we faced the correct Direction when we prayed. And that accomplishes two very important things:

1. It exalts Jesus

2. It completely *eliminates* the Importance of Israel; Jerusalem; and the Temple

... because you can't have one- without the other.

Exalting Jesus alone in Prayer- *necessarily* eliminates the Importance that God Himself placed on the Promised Land (Israel); and Jerusalem; and the Temple. Let me say this another Way: We CANNOT exalt Jesus alone in Prayer- without first- completely ELIMINATING the Importance that God Himself placed on Israel; Jerusalem; and the Temple under the Old Covenant. Another Way of understanding this is to say that we are NOT exalting Jesus alone in Prayer- unless we also totally *eliminate* any Importance that the Nation of Israel; and Jerusalem; and the Temple have in the New Covenant.

And this is *why* the Apostle Paul said this in **Colossians 1:15-20**:

**15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

**16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

**17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**

**18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

**19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

Since Jesus came and lived and died and rose again- and the glorious New Covenant has been established- it isn't enough for people to believe in God. Simply believing in some generic God today will get you nowhere. But people MUST also go *further* than believing in the “*God of Abraham; Isaac; and Jacob*”, too. Today- people MUST believe- *very specifically*- that Jesus is God! And this is so true- that NOBODY can be saved- unless they do believe that Jesus is God!

But that means that it isn't enough today for a person to simply *worship* God. ALL who worship God- *in Spirit and in Truth*- MUST now- *very specifically*- worship the Lord Jesus Christ! And now that the Old Covenant has been abolished and a much BETTER Covenant is now in force- EVERYONE who desires for God to hear them- MUST pray- IN THE NAME OF JESUS- and NOT merely face Jerusalem; or the Temple; or pray in the Temple.

Now please look at a very strange Passage found in **Philippians 2:9-11** that says:

**9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,  
10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Now this Passage teaches that the ONLY WAY to glorify God the Father under the New Covenant- is NOT to glorify God the Father. What? I say that the New Testament teaches right here that the ONE WAY- the ONLY WAY- to glorify God the Father is to now glorify God the Son. So, ever since the establishment of the New Covenant- the ONLY WAY for anyone to glorify God the Father is for them to bow their knees to God the Son- Jesus Christ; and to proclaim out loud- completely unashamedly- that Jesus Christ is Lord! THAT is the ONLY WAY that God the Father is glorified today!

And so, any attempt by anyone- Jew or Gentile- for any Reason- to try to glorify God- by purposefully NOT glorifying Jesus- is an attempt at *minimizing* or even *eliminating* WHO Jesus is; and WHAT Jesus alone has done! And that insults God MORE than anything else. So, any Attempt at glorifying God *without* glorifying Jesus is a wicked Sin that God will judge! Those Efforts do NOT glorify God- they bring Him NO Glory at all. In fact, they *dishonor* Him! So, ever since Jesus lived; and died; and rose again- ALL glorifying of God the Father- runs through Jesus. And this is a very Important Truth of the Christian Faith called, the “*Preeminence of Jesus Christ*”- or as Paul put it:

**... so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

So, as a Jew or a Muslim or a Buddhist or a Hindu sincerely and earnestly prays today- asking God to do something- they are actually *insulting* God the Father to His Face. How? Because their Prayers (as well as their entire Religion) either *minimizes* WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus alone has done; or they *exclude* it altogether.

So, yes, Sincerity in Prayer is great. It is much *better* to pray *sincerely*- than to pray *insincerely*. But mere Sincerity is NOT what causes God to answer our Prayers. As we go to God in Prayer- we MUST go- IN THE NAME OF JESUS- and NOT offer our Prayers based on any other Condition.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, God ONLY answers the Prayers that are in accord with His Will (1John 5:14).



And this tells us several things. First of all- no Human being has a “*one-on-one*” Relationship with God the Father. And no human being can contact God the Father- *directly*. By Grace and through Faith- we have a “one-on-one” Relationship with God the Son- Jesus Christ- and Jesus has a “one-on-one” Relationship with God the Father. So, we go to God THROUGH Jesus Christ.

Now we can't do this- but *theoretically*, if we were to somehow get into God the Father's Presence- *without* going through Jesus; *without* being washed in Jesus' Blood; and *without* having the spotless Righteousness of Jesus draped over us- God the Father would instantly *eviscerate* us! He would destroy us- because of our Sin. So, we always need to remember that our Sins have been *forgiven*- but they have NOT been *eliminated*. We still sin against God- all the time. But because of WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus alone has done- we are NOT damned because of our Sins. But because we still sin- we CANNOT stand in God's Presence on our own.

But even though we CANNOT stand in God's Presence on our own- we CAN stand in God's Presence! But the ONLY Reason we can stand in God's Presence- is because of Jesus' Blood; and His sinless Life; and His Death; and His Resurrection- and all of that- is what constitutes Jesus' “NAME”. **Hebrews 4:16** says,

**Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Now WHY does this matter to God? It matters to God because of the great Love that God the Father has for God the Son. God the Father *loves* God the Son with such *completeness* that the Father's Love for the Son- *overshadows* all other forms of Love found *anywhere* in the Universe. In other words, there is no Love that exists *anywhere* within God's Creation- that even comes *close* to the Love that God the Father has for God the Son. Their Love for; and their Admiration of each other- is so great; so powerful; so beautiful; so glorious; and so important- that it is beyond our Comprehension.

God the Father looks at His Own pristine Characteristics that are reflected back to Him from the Face of His Son- and He loves what He sees! So, *nobody* pleases God the Father like the Son pleases Him; and *nobody* adores God the Father the way His “*one and only*” (begotten) Son does. Everything Jesus ever said or did (while He was on the earth and even now as He is in Heaven)- was and is in *perfect* Accord with the Will of His Father; and was *always* carried out- to His Glory. So, with Jesus we see:

- *Perfect* Submission to God the Father
- *Perfect* Joy in God the Father
- *Perfectly* being led by God the Holy Spirit
- *Perfect* Obedience to God's inspired; inerrant; and infallible Word
- *Perfect* Love toward Jesus' "Neighbors"

... all based in a *perfect* Love for God the Father.

And that's *why* God said this about Jesus in **Matthew 3:17b** when He was baptized:

... **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."**

God doesn't love *anything* in the Universe as much or more than He loves Jesus. And nobody pleases God the Father as much or more than Jesus does. So, the **ONLY** Reason we can please God the Father is by doing **ALL** that we do- **IN THE NAME OF-** Jesus and to His Glory alone!

So, God saved us- **NOT** merely because He loves us- even though God **DOES** love us. But God the Father's Love for us- is wrapped up in His Love for Jesus. So, God the Father loves us- in the sense- that by saving us- we display how Wonderful; and how Merciful; and how Kind; and Glorious- Jesus is. And God the Father loves that.

And please allow me to show you how important that Truth is- as it pertains to Salvation. In **John 6:44 & 65** the Bible teaches that lost Sinners do **NOT** come to Jesus for Salvation simply because they choose to. Because of the devastating Effects of the Fall- we **CAN'T** simply "choose" to be saved. So, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit sovereignly work together to "*draw*" or "*drag*" lost Sinners to Jesus for

**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day... no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.**

... and then in Verse 37- the Bible goes onto teach that Jesus will receive **EVERYONE** that God gives to Him:

**All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.**

So, Jesus accepts us- when we are drawn to Jesus- as filthy Sinners. Yes, He does! But Jesus does **NOT** accept us- simply because we came; or because He loves us; or because we are so precious. Now, yes- Jesus **DOES** love us! And we

celebrate that every day! But the main Reason Jesus receives us to Himself- so He can wash us and cleanse us and forgive us- is because Jesus sees us as being a Gift from His Father. And so, Jesus accepting us- even though we are wicked Sinners- has much MORE to do with His Love for His Father than it does based on any Worth that we might bring to the Table.

So, if you would like to- think about the New Covenant as being the *highest*; and the *best*; and the most *complete* Display of the great Love that God the Father has for God the Son. And that amazing Love that the Father has for the Son is illustrated BEST- when looking at how God saves wicked Sinners and Why! NOTHING in all the Universe- illustrates the Love between the Father and the Son as well as Salvation. So, in Reality- Salvation is simply you and me- being caught up- in the great Love Affair that exists between God the Father and God the Son. And it is the Power of God the Holy Spirit that makes it all come together!

So, when Jesus was preaching this Sermon on that Mountain that Day- He introduced His listeners to the most radical Theology that existed anywhere on earth: Prayer offered in His “Name”- glorifies God the Father MORE than sacrificing an animal; or by praying in the Temple; or by praying toward the City of Jerusalem!

Now Jesus was the One Who introduced the world to this radical Theology- precisely because nobody else COULD introduce it. Peter and James and John and Matthew were all struggling to understand how they could glorify God by completely *ignoring* a lot of what Moses taught them in sacred Scripture. And these men never were very stable- until AFTER Jesus rose from the Dead. So, Jesus spoke these words found in verse 6:

**Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.**

Now normally, when we see Jesus speaking about “holy” Things- we see the term, “Dog” as having to do with the unbelieving, pagan Gentiles who occupied the Nations of the world. And by using the term, “Swine” here- Jesus was also equating Unbelievers with that which was “Unclean” to a Jew.

Today this Verse is almost *universally* used to talk about a Situation when a Christian discusses internal Issues about the workings of the Church with Unbelievers- who don’t appreciate either the sensitivity of the Situation nor the Importance of it. American Unbelievers are becoming *increasingly* hostile to the Church and how the Church conducts its internal Affairs in private- among the Family- that is unique and separate from the Way that Corporate America does. So, Issues like removing the Tax-exempt Status of the Church- is gaining

momentum among more and more Politicians- who are actually beginning to get scared at the ever-growing National Debt.

For example, the Roman religious System recently lost whatever “moral Credibility” they might have had- because of the largest Child-abuse Scandal in the History of the world. It seems as though the Leaders of this religious System knew about men who were molesting Children and yet didn’t notify the Police and have those men arrested.

Now those of you who know me- know that, more than most people- I absolutely have a “*dog in this hunt.*” I am very familiar with Abuse in the Church. And you also know that I am one of the most outspoken critics on this Coast- of this religious “System” that has *isolated* itself from the Authority of Scripture. And you also know that I cry out against sexual Immorality- more than most.

But I also know the Bible. And this is what the Bible says in **1Corinthians 6:1-3** about going to the *outside* Authorities about an *internal* Matter:

**1 Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?**

**2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?**

**3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?**

What goes on *inside* the Church is NEVER the Business of the lost world. Neither the Federal Government of the United States; nor the Governments of the State of Mississippi; or the City of Gulfport; or Harrison County have ANY Jurisdictional Authority over this Church. This Land is owned by the Covenant of Peace Church and is exempt from taxation and other Rules and Laws that apply to secular Corporations.

As long as I am the Pastor of the Church- we will NEVER fly an American flag in this Church; and I will NEVER have a Politician speak from behind this Pulpit. I go to the Politicians and give them “*Divine Indictments*”- but they do NOT come here to campaign. But I can; and I have; and I will; cry out against any person- who operates in a Place of Authority- if that Person is waging War against Jesus Christ and His Church. So, I can preach *against* certain Politicians; and against their Policies; and call them to Repentance.

But I will NEVER testify in open Court about what somebody confided to me in a counselling Session- even if I receive a subpoena. I am NOT under any Obligation to obey those Laws. And that is why- back in 2020- I refused to close this Church due to the Pandemic. And I made that Decision- BEFORE the

Governor said we could stay open- because I won't ask any Governor to give me Permission to obey God.

Look, I'm not trying to pick a Fight- but nobody but Jesus died for my Sins; and nobody but Jesus is building His Church. So, as much as I respect Mayors and Governors and other Politicians and as much as I love and respect this Country- I am going to do my best to lead this Church based on biblical Principles and NOT in what some other Entity gives me Permission to do. This Church is NOT under any Obligation to obey Laws or Rulings that contradict the Law of God.

Now the Roman System *should* have handled this child-abuse scandal correctly- and they didn't. And they should be condemned for NOT doing what the Bible tells them to do. But they should have handled this Scandal *internally*. Why? Here is the inspired; infallible; and inerrant Logic of the Apostle Paul about this Matter:

**... do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?**

Now the Reality is that I don't recognize the Roman "System" as even being a legitimate "Church". And I also realize that MOST Churches today aren't set up biblically to begin with. And so, there isn't any Vehicle that is available to the people of God to handle things like that. But we NEED such a Vehicle- because as hard as we work to make sure that the Leadership of this Church is godly and qualified- we are NOT Omniscient. And if people really wanted to fool us- they *could*. So, we have to do this.

But NONE of that was going on that day when Jesus preached this Sermon. So, what was He talking about? A few Commentators teach that Jesus was actually *condemning* "Evangelism". But we know from other Verses that Jesus *promoted* preaching the Gospel to every creature- in every nation.

So, was Jesus condemning any Effort to reach the pagan Roman occupiers in this Verse? No! Because when you examine all that Jesus taught- He NEVER said a single negative thing about those vicious and brutal Soldiers- who were humiliating the Jews.

Okay, so what did Jesus mean when He said this? Jesus was speaking "*spiritually*" here. And the terms, "dogs" and "swine" that *normally* had to do with *natural* Gentiles- was made toward the Jewish religious Leaders- who, in every way- were acting MORE like Unbelievers than the natural Gentiles.

So, this Verse is simply one more Verse that illustrates the ever-growing Hostility that existed between the incarnate God and the Jewish Rulers- who held

themselves out as being “experts” of God’s Law. Yet in verse after verse- the Love of God- personified- called these people, “*Hypocrites*”.

So, here in verse 6- Jesus was telling the Jewish Believers- to completely *ignore* the Scribes; Pharisees; Sadducees; the Essenes; and the Zealots. These Groups did NOT represent God; they did NOT understand the Old Testament correctly; and they did NOT love God. And so, this entire Sermon was NOT for them. Those religious Frauds were *entirely* Lost; and they operated their Lives based on their own carnal Lusts that had NOTHING to do with biblical Righteousness.

And what is interesting- again in Context- is that Jesus was instructing the genuine Believers here to *exclude* the Jewish Leaders from the Information they received from even this very Sermon! And that *includes* the Part that has to do with Prayer!

And Jesus was telling those believing Jews that the Jewish Leaders would not only NOT appreciate (nor agree with) how Jesus tells them to pray here- but that if the genuine Believer were to try to get the Scribes and Pharisees and the others to see the Value and Worth to pray “in the Name of” the Messiah- that the Jewish Leaders would take the Hostility that existed between them and Jesus and use it against them! And THAT is *why* Jesus said:

**Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.**

And that Hostility against the church came to pass during much of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- because the *greatest* Persecution against the floundering Church early on- came from the Jewish Leaders and NOT from the pagan Romans. In all but a few cases- Christians- the followers of Jesus and those who joyfully abandoned the Old Covenant and embraced the New- were ill-treated- *primarily* by the Jews and NOT by Gentiles.

And even to this Day- all around the world- the amazing Hostility that existed back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century between Jesus and those He came originally to save- has spread to those who now gladly follow Jesus- His Church. And that is *why*- part of our Prayers that we pray today- IN JESUS’ NAME- is what the Apostle Paul prayed back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century in **Romans 10:1-4**:

**1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.**

**2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.**

**3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their**

**own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.  
4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**

... and that is why we NEED to pray- IN THE NAME OF- JESUS!  
Amen. Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the  
Glory of God alone