



Sermon: Knowing Jesus

Text: *Matthew 7.1-11*

Preacher: *Robert Row*

Introductory questions -

The “judgmental champions” of the Old Testament were Job’s comforters. They were so busy trying to get the speck out of Job’s eye that they did not see the planks in their own eyes.

1. Read Job 42.7-9. What did the Lord have to say about whether Job’s friends were right or wrong?

According to W. Steward McCullough, “the dogs in the Bible... appear to have been the scavenger sort, which haunted the streets and refuse dumps of the towns and which were generally considered to be unclean and vicious. To the Israelites, pigs were even more abhorrent than dogs.

1. Read Proverbs 15.12, 17.12, 18.2 and 20.3. How would you sum up the advice about trying to deal with stubbornly unreasonable people?

Reflection questions -

1. What commands does Jesus make in these verses?
2. Why do we often see other’s faults so clearly but not our own faults?
3. Why does Jesus tell us not to judge others (vv. 1-2)? How do these verses expand on Jesus’ statement about the merciful (5.7)?
4. According to Jesus, why are we often unfit to be judges (vv. 3-4)?
5. Some have assumed that Jesus was forbidding all judgment, even in law courts. How would you respond to this suggestion?
6. What steps must we take to truly help a brother or sister (v.5)?
7. What kinds of people do you think Jesus refers to as “dogs” and “pigs” (v. 6)?
8. Why is it futile, even dangerous, to expect such people to value the gospel?
9. What encouragement does Jesus give those who ask, seek and knock (vv. 7-8)? How can we be assured of these promises (vv. 9-11)?
10. How does Jesus use bread and fish to make a point about prayer and God’s generosity?
11. In what sense does the golden rule (v. 12) sum up the Law and the Prophets?
12. Think of a relationship that is presently broken. How would the “rule of love” apply to that relationship? What steps should you take to help mend that relationship?