

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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PIGS & PEARLS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 7:6
"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you."*

Pigs don't appreciate pearls. While humans will pay a premium price for real pearls, pigs place no premium on pearls. In similar manner, dogs are usually not picky eaters. They see no distinction between holy and profane. While dogs in many countries may be pampered today, in Jesus' day dogs were snarling scavengers that survived on garbage. Nobody would waste good food on dogs.

Jesus uses these striking images to teach us the important lesson that some things are wasted on some people. While Jesus warns us against developing judgmental spirits (verses 1-5), He also challenges us to still exercise basic discernment and discretion. Failure to exercise discretion could lead us into behavior that is both wasteful and dangerous. People who fail to recognize the value of spiritual things will make little time for spiritual interventions in their lives. They quickly dismiss and disregard such efforts. They may often even view them as threats and attack the person who cast the spiritual gems into their path. Oftentimes these are religious people who are content with their own self-created spiritual baubles, and resent the unflattering light true spiritual treasures cast on their counterfeits.

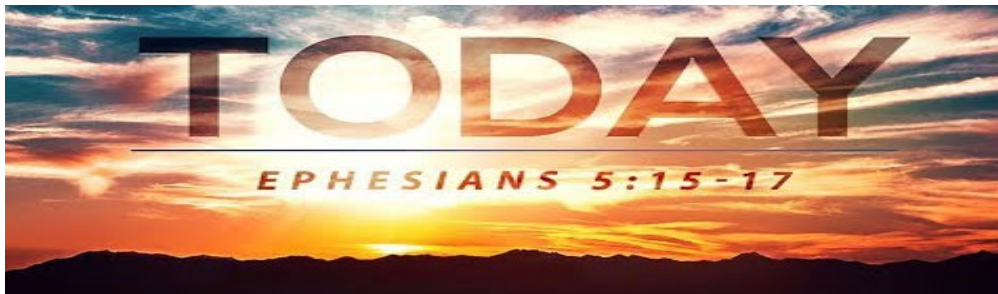
Wise Christian will trust the Lord to lead them to discern where and how they should invest their efforts and resources. While we live with the reality that our God does miracles, and can redeem apparently hopeless causes, we must also recognize when an intervention is a waste of resources. There are times when the best investments we can make in someone or something is prayer alone until God performs a work of redemption.

So, Christians must resist judgmentalism, but must nurture and practice discernment. Don't throw your pearls before pigs.

God bless you,

Pastor James

WISDOM IN ACTION



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>April 13 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>April 18 Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>April 18 In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>QUICK TIPS</p> <p>Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>April 16 Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p>VIRTUAL KIDZONE SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p>April 18 Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our local Social Security office asked if we could pass this information on to you, especially in these challenging times precipitated by the Covid-19 pandemic: The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides monthly payments to adults and children with disabilities who have income and resources below specified amounts. SSI payments can also be made to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. Find more information at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/> or call 1-800-772-1213.
- The **Church's Quarterly Members meeting** will be on **Sunday, April 18th** immediately following the morning service.
- The **2021 Church Directory** will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website, click the **ABOUT** button at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Our **Mini-Pantry is now closed**. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.