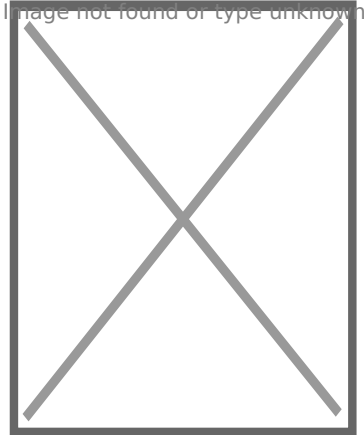


Discussion of Matthew 7:6 “Pearls Before Swine (Epicureans?)”

Post by “Don” of January 22, 2025 at 6:53 AM

Here's the commentary on those verses from the Jesus Seminar 's The Five Gospels:



[The five Gospels : the search for the authentic words of Jesus : new translation and commentary : Funk, Robert Walter, 1926-2005 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

A Polebridge Press book.
archive.org

(Read with free account)

The saying is preserved in Matthew and the Gospel of Thomas. Here the end of that section in the book:

contact with. Dogs and pigs are symbols for whatever is socially and religiously impure. For Judeans, gentiles were unclean and could therefore be called dogs and pigs. For the author of 2 Peter and other Christian groups, backsliders and apostates were dogs and pigs. To the author of the first Christian instructional manual, known as the Didache or the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, the unbaptized are dogs (9:5, citing Matt 7:6, but with a specific reference). In general, the proverb in all its forms indicates disdain and contempt.

To most Fellows the sayings in Matthew and Thomas seemed inimical to Jesus. The immediately preceding context in Matthew calls for self-criticism rather than the slander of others. A few Fellows thought Jesus might have used the images in Matt 7:6 in a metaphorical way to encourage a certain amount of discrimination in choosing an audience for his aphorisms and parables. (His enigmatic sayings and stories *were* readily misunderstood and often provoked strong negative response.) The compromise was a gray designation.