



# Daily Reflections

**June 23, 2020**

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## Scripture

### **Matthew 7:6, 12-14**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces.

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

This is the Law and the Prophets.

“Enter through the narrow gate;

for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many.

How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life.

And those who find it are few.”

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## Our Scripture Reflection

The Jews referred to Gentiles as dogs. With that in mind, we can see that He is instructing His disciples to give what is holy to those who are grateful enough to receive it. In Chapter 15 we will see how Jesus treats a “dog”, Gentile woman, who begs for His help.

After teaching the Golden Rule, He then challenges them to “enter through the narrow gate”. In other words, they are to take the high ground when working on the spiritual life.

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## Food for your Journey

There's an old Carolina story I like about a country boy who had a great talent for carving beautiful dogs out of wood. Every day he sat on his porch whittling, letting the shavings fall around him.

One day a visitor, greatly impressed, asked him the secret of his art. "I just take a block of wood and whittle off the parts that don't look like a dog," he replied.

In spiritual whittling, though, we don't discard the shavings. Transformation happens, not by rejecting these parts of ourselves, but by gathering them up and integrating them. Through this process we reach a new wholeness. Spiritual whittling is an encounter with Mystery, waiting, the silence of inner places -- all those things most folks no longer have time for.

--Sue Monk Kidd, *When the Heart Waits* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1990).

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, You gave everything for my salvation. Therefore, may I never take my work at living the Gospel for granted. With the help of Your Grace, may I live Your way sacrificially and lovingly. Amen