

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Valuable Lessons from the Third Pig

Matthew 7:13-27

¹ Lord Jesus is to be Lord as well as savior!

A lord expects to be obeyed. Since He created you, He has that right. ² But our Lord had to say, **Why do you call me, “Lord, Lord,” and do not do what I say? ¹**

Our scripture is from Matthew, chapter 1, verses 13 through 27 brings this home. ³

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ² ⁴

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every

¹ Luke 6:46.

² Matthew 7:13-14.

tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ³ ₅

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' ⁴ ₆

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew

³ Matthew 7:15-20.

⁴ Matthew 7:21-23.

and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”⁵

This scripture passage reminds me of a bedtime story my mom told me when I was a kid.⁷



⁵ Matthew 7:24-27.

Once upon a time there were three little pigs, and the time came for them to leave home and seek their fortunes.

Before they left, their mother told them, “Whatever you do, do it the best that you can because that’s the way to get along in the world.” ⁸



The first little pig built his house out of straw because it was the easiest to do. 9



The second little pig built his house out of sticks. This was a little bit stronger than the straw house. 10



The third little pig built his house out of bricks. 11



One night the big bad wolf, who dearly loved to eat fat little piggies, came along, and saw the first little pig in his house of straw. He said, “Let me in, let me in, little pig or I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house in!” “Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin”, said the little pig. But, of course, the wolf did blow the house in and ate the first little pig.

The wolve, then, came to the house of sticks. “Let me in, let me in little pig or I’ll huff, and I’ll puff, and I’ll blow your house in.” “Not by the hair of my chinny

chin chin”, said the little pig. But the wolf blew that house in too and ate the second little pig.

The wolf, then, came to the house of bricks. “Let me in, let me in,” cried the wolf, “or I’ll huff, and I’ll puff till I blow your house in.” “Not by the hair of my chinny chin chin,” said the pig. Well, the wolf huffed and puffed but he could not blow down that brick house.

The wolf was a sly old wolf, so he climbed up on the roof to look for a way into the brick house. The little pig saw the wolf climb up on the roof and lit a roaring fire in the fireplace and placed on it a large kettle of water.

When the wolf finally found the hole in the chimney he crawled down and, KERSPLASH!, fell right into that kettle of water. That was the end of the big bad wolf! ⁶

This story is about a smart little pig and his two dumb brothers! How can we relate this story to our scripture? ¹²

⁶ www.shol.com/agita/pigs.htm

I. The Dumb Brothers Fell Prey to the Big Bad Wolf!

The dumb brothers fell prey to the big bad wolf! ¹³

Who is the real big bad wolf? He is Satan – the devil.

He's big, and he's bad, and he is deceitful! ¹⁴

He wears sheep's clothing. ⁷ He looks like everybody else. He fits in. He looks real innocent like. ¹⁵

He calls himself a Christian. ⁸ ¹⁶ He will involve himself in ministry in the Lord's name. He may prophesy (preach), cast out demons and perform miraculous things! ⁹ ¹⁷

So, how do you recognize him for who he is? ¹⁸ He will have a ferocious appetite for devouring people. ¹⁰ ¹⁹

⁷ Matthew 7:15 - Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

⁸ Matthew 7:21 - Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

⁹ Matthew 7:22 - Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'

¹⁰ Matthew 7:15.

He will produce rotten fruit. ¹¹ ₂₀ He will not do God's will even though he may be doing things for the Lord!

¹² ₂₁

How do you fall prey to the big bad wolf? ₂₂

The dumb brothers took the broad, popular, and easy road! Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹³ ₂₃

¹¹ Matthew 7:16.

¹² Matthew 7:21.

¹³ Matthew 7:13.



Dumb brother # 1 built his house of straw. This was easy, convenient, and fast. 24



Dumb brother # 2 built his house of wood. This was easy, convenient, and fast. ²⁵

Houses like these are easy to blow down and wash away. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. ¹⁴ ₂₆

¹⁴ Matthew 7:26-27.

It all depends upon how seriously you accept the word of God! ²⁷ Matthew, chapter 13, verses 3 through 8 explains, **A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.** ²⁸

It can get snatched away when you hear it, but you don't care to understand it. ¹⁵ ²⁹

You may accept the word but quickly abandon the Lord when life starts to get tough. ¹⁶ ³⁰

¹⁵ Matthew 13:19 - When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

What you possess really ends up possessing you to the point where you are not willing to fully surrender to the Lord. ¹⁷ ₃₁ But . . .

II. The Wise Piggy Conquered the Big Bad Wolf

The wise piggy conquered the big bad wolf. ₃₂

He chose the narrow road with the small gate. Enter through the narrow gate . . . But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. ¹⁸ This is the hard, difficult way of the few. ₃₃

He prepared adequately to fortify himself from the big bad wolf. He used bricks!

¹⁶ Matthew 13: 20-21 - The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

¹⁷ Matthew 13:22 - The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

¹⁸ Matthew 7:13-14.

They were more expensive to buy. They were heavy to haul around. They were time consuming to build with.

34

Most importantly – he didn't obey the big bad wolf! He didn't open the door. He prepared the big pot with the boiling water. ³⁵

How can you fortify yourself against the big bad wolf in your life? ³⁶

Make the right choice! **Take the narrow road - With the small gate! The interstate highway of the majority is easy and fast but leads to destruction. This highway even has a tour guide! The two-lane winding mountain dirt road of the few is hard and slow but leads to life, abundant and eternal, with God! ³⁷**

Prepare your heart to be good ground for receiving the seed of the word of God. ¹⁹ The word will produce a good crop of fruit in your life if you do! ³⁸

¹⁹ Matthew 13: 8 & 23 - Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown . . . **But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and**

Continue preparing yourself spiritually by building your house upon the rock foundation. You do this by hearing and practicing the word of God as a way of life. Remember verses 24 and 25, **Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.** 39

By remaining faithful to the Lord you can withstand anything the big bad wolf can throw at you. Romans, chapter 8, verses 38 and 39 assure us, **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** 40

understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

God's word warns us, Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says! ²⁰ 41

So – which piggy are you? Are you like the dumb brothers who heard but did not obey; or are you like the smart piggy who built his life on the solid foundation of obedience to the word of God?

<http://biblelifemessages.org>

²⁰ James 1:22.