

March 9, 2005

Flannery O'Connor "Wise Blood"

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

"He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you."

Proverbs 9:7-8

"Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."

Matthew 7:6

"Haze didn't open the tract. He looked at the outside of it and then he tore it across. He put the two pieces together and tore them across again. He kept re-stacking the pieces and tearing them again until he had a little handful of confetti. He turned his hand over and let the shredded leaflet sprinkle to the ground. Then he looked up and saw the blind man's child not three feet away, watching him. Her mouth was open and her eyes glittered on him like two chips of green bottle glass. She had a white gunny sack hung over her shoulder. Haze scowled and began rubbing his sticky hands on his pants. 'I seen you,' she said."

p 42 Wise Blood

Read section marked on pp 50-51, Wise Blood

"...we sometimes think that any conversation about God is a good conversation. If we're with a fool, however, we would be better off to walk away...Our message is too precious to be treated with ridicule and derision...Until someone is more interested in truth than in airing his or her own opinions, it's best to talk about the weather."

pp 44-45 Questioning Evangelism

Randy Newman

Kregel Publications, 2004

Questions:

How does one know when they are in a situation like this? How do we identify "fools"? Have you ever been in a situation like this? If nothing is so bad that it is irredeemable how can we say there are "swine" out there?