Socrates was never a man of simple reasoning. He had to thoroughly understand everything with the utmost clarity, even to the point of annoyance among people he would have arguments with. One of these unlucky blokes happened to be Euthyphro. Euthyphro was a high priest, with a supposedly deep understanding of the Gods and their reasons for acting the way they would. Naturally, Socrates found it fitting to challenge Euthyphro's knowledge and understanding of the Gods. When Socrates had made Euthyphro provide a third and final definition of piety for him, Euthyphro says "...I say that if a man knows how to say and do what is pleasing to the gods at prayer and sacrifice, those are pious actions such as preserve both private houses and public affairs of the state. The opposite of these pleasing actions are in Pius and overturn and destroy everything." (pp 18). To what Socrates replies back, with this extremely simple but seemingly crucial question "Is the pious loved by the Gods because it is pious? Or is it pious because it's loved by the Gods?"

Socrates seems to think that Euthyphro is using cyclical reasoning to prove his own point. While Euthyphro is trying to give confusing and seemingly cyclical definitions of piety, Socrates sees right through his words and starts to question his knowledge of Gods and morality. Socrates continues to ask Euthyphro for definitions of piety because he genuinely wishes to gain more clarity on the subject of Gods and piety, but Euthyphro can't give Socrates the concise definition that he craves for. In the end, Euthyphro gets angry and decides to hurry off without giving Socrates the full knowledge and understanding that he was searching for. Socrates kept thinking that Euthyphro's definitions were mistaken because Socrates thought that Euthyphro didn't believe in his own words that he was saying. Euthyphro gave 3 very different definitions of piety, and not one of them were up to Socrates standards of wisdom. If Euthyphro had decided to stay around longer and give Socrates a concise definition of piety, maybe Socrates would agree with his wording and be happy with such a definition. But because Euthyphro rushed off in such a hurry, Socrates was left without a clear understanding of piety.