

## Sermon – Parable of the Pearl

### Matthew 13:44-46

**<sup>44</sup> Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.**

**<sup>45</sup> Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:**

**<sup>46</sup> Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.**

Again, the Kingdom of Heaven operates like this parable. Again, we see another example of the inner workings of how the Kingdom will gain dominion in the earth and dominion and rule in our lives. Because we are the Kingdom.

These parables, natural examples helping to explain spiritual principles are key to our understanding and application of the Kingdom in our lives. What does all this really mean?

This parable is very similar to the treasure and field parable where it recognizes the great value of the Kingdom. There is nothing more valuable in life, than the pursuit of the Kingdom.

So, lets break down this parable, first in the natural setting.

- There is a man, but not just a man, a merchant man.
  - The Greek translation is a person on a journey for the purpose of trading.
  - Hebrew root word is to travel about.
- This merchant is seeking excellent or magnificent pearls.
- He finds one very valuable and expensive pearl.
- He sells everything he had and purchases the pearl.

Observations:

- If he doesn't travel he won't find it. If he doesn't see the need for having it he won't move.
- If you want something better, His best, you are going to need to move.
- It is a purposeful move; a move desiring a good thing. The right move. Looking for something good and better than what he has now. It's in the move....it starts with you.
- He finds it and determines it has significant value. What he finds is better and more valuable than what he has now.
- He has to release what he currently has in order to obtain something more valuable.
- Until he lets go of what he has, he cannot possess the greater valued pearl.
- You can know about the pearl, see the pearl, desire the pearl, and yet never possess the pearl.

Let's now look at the spiritual application:



The merchant man = Jesus

- He came down and moved from Heaven to earth seeking to purchase pearls of magnificent value.

The pearl = you

What the merchant trades in return = His life

- Christ surrendered all and gave up his life to purchase something of significant value.
- He sought me and bought me with His redeeming love.

Jesus ushers in and ignites the start of the kingdom of Heaven , it starts with Him!

We need to fully understand our value in the Kingdom. You're extremely valuable.

- Jesus must see the value in you because He travelled to find you and paid the price for you (Jesus paid it all).
- It doesn't matter if the world doesn't like you.
  - Jesus loves you (Oh, How He Loves You and Me).
- Doesn't matter if someone else has rejected you.
  - Jesus accepts you.
- Doesn't matter if others don't want to spend time with you or visit you.
  - He wants to have communion with you.
- Doesn't matter if people laugh at you.
  - The angels rejoice in heaven when you are saved.
- You didn't have it like that before, nobody may have told you your value before.
  - You better not commit suicide, you better not throw yourself away, you better not sell yourself cheap, you better understand your valuation.
  - I don't care what Consumer Reports said, I don't care what Dr. Phill says, I don't care what my Ex says; my Bible tells me I'm precious in His sight and I'm loved.
  - Nobody loves me like you love me Jesus.

But there's more. There is a part you must play. The Kingdom of Heaven not only will gain dominion in the earth, it must also begin in you. I'm precious because I have something inside me that's special.

The merchant man = is you and I

The pearl = Jesus (He's the lily of the valley)

- We do the valuation and find nobody and nothing is greater or more valuable than Jesus.

We trade our life for Him, He becomes part of us in relationship.

Those three steps are still in effect that I keep telling you about.

- Until you find the need for change and something better, you will likely never make a move and travel to seek Him.



- Once you find Him and see how precious and magnificent Jesus can be in your life, you have to turn from you and turn to Him. Let go of you and everything that comes with you.
- Complete the transaction and receive

It sounds so easy, so simple, and the Kingdom gets started, grows, increases and operates like this.

So, what is the problem?

If I ask you today do you need Jesus, you would probably say yes.

If I ask you today, if there is anything more valuable than Jesus, you would probably say no.

The problem is probably not that we don't know Him or need Him, we just have problems releasing what we have to obtain Christ.

- We have a hard time letting go. We want Jesus but we want to hold on to ourselves at the same time.
- We want God's best but its hard to let go of the past, the hurt, the anger, the money, the pride, the stuff, the world, our plans and our will.
- We want God's best but we want to have Him our way.
  - This ain't Burger King, this is the King of Kings; you can't have it your way when He's Yahweh.

What treasure do you hold that is less valuable than Christ and the Kingdom but you just can't let go of it?

My investment example.

The Summary:

Christ truly gave up all, his very life for us. He has paid the purchase price and sees us as very valuable. We should never let the enemy trick us into believing that we are not precious in His sight (John 3:16).

Jesus is the buyer and we are the precious pearl.

Jesus Christ is a *Pearl of great price*, a Jewel of inestimable value, which will make those who have it rich, truly rich, rich toward God; in having him, we have enough to make us happy here and forever.

A true Christian is a spiritual *merchant*, that seeks and finds this pearl of price; that does not take up with any thing short of an interest in Christ, and, as one that is resolved to be spiritually rich, trades high.

Those who would have a saving interest in Christ, must be willing to part with all for him, leave all to follow him. Whatever stands in opposition to Christ, or in competition with him for our love and service, we must cheerfully quit it, though ever so dear to us.

Jesus sees us as so valuable, we should not then discount our own value. We are important to the Kingdom. Even angels rejoice when we are saved.



Let it go, in the end, Jesus is worth more than anything you are still holding onto. Don't let your past, interfere with the expansion of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Notes from John McArthur:

1. Kingdom is priceless (benefits of being saved)
2. Kingdom is hidden from most
3. You must personally acquire (realize the value)
4. Kingdom is a source of joy
5. Kingdom may be entered from different circumstances (stumble upon it versus searching on purpose)
6. Made personal by a transaction