

## THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

MATTHEW 13:45-46

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“A Kingdom Community”

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### Intro:

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price are two very short parables; yet they have been the subject of many very lengthy discussions. The discussions have centered around the identities of the man who found the treasure hidden in the field and the merchant seeking beautiful pearls. The discussions have also centered around the contents of the treasure hidden in the field and the symbolic meaning of The Pearl of Great Price. The key question is how do these parables relate to the kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God. Both parables begin with “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like,” which suggests that they are connected to the previous parables spoken by Jesus on this day where He shared eight parables; and each parable contains at least one spiritual truth or principle related to the kingdom of heaven.

Last week I shared with you that the treasure hidden in the field was the anointing or intimacy with Christ. The man who discovered the hidden treasure valued it so, until He hid the treasure and went and liquidated his assets, in order to return and purchase the field. Jesus said the motivation for doing this was, “and for the joy over it...” The anointing of the Holy Spirit and intimacy with Christ ought to be so valued by the believer, until we should be willing to make whatever sacrifices necessary to experience and enjoy, and be empowered by His anointing on a daily basis.

The man who found the “hidden treasure” stumbled upon it. He was not seeking the treasure; He was going about his daily responsibilities and coincidentally discovered the treasure. The man who found the pearl of great price was purposefully and intentionally seeking “beautiful pearls.” You just don’t stumble across fine pearls; you discover them while on a search.

Pearls are not mentioned specifically in the Old Testament. Pearls were valued in Nineveh, but in the Hebrew or Jewish world, pearls were just beginning to be valued about the time of the coming of Jesus. Pearls were highly treasured and sought after during the time of Jesus and usually were adorned by Kings and Queens. If anyone else could afford them, they paid dearly for them; and pearls retained their value.

Why were pearls so sought after? Their uniqueness:

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- Pearls are made differently from any other gem.
- It is very difficult to secure pearls.
- Pearls possess a novel beauty compared to Diamonds.

In this parable, the pearl not only represents the eternal kingdom of God, which has no beginning and has no end—it represents the uniqueness of the kingdom, compared to other kingdoms—and it represents the preciousness of the treasure, in addition to its value. Something could be valuable and yet not treasured.

The Hidden Treasure speaks of the value of the Kingdom—The Pearl speaks of the Preciousness of the Kingdom.

Jesus taught (in this parable), there is nothing more precious in life and worth the risk of discovery than the kingdom of heaven. Jesus taught there is nothing of greater value in this life as the kingdom of God.

- What sacrifices should we make, by any means necessary?
  - He may have to sacrifice material things;
  - He may have to sacrifice comfort;
  - He may have to sacrifice friends;
- The law of double meaning: The reason we seek the “pearl” is because of what Christ went through to deliver us.