



INTRODUCTION: This Kingdom Mystery reminds us of the last parable. The merchant man finds a pearl, a priceless treasure, and like the last parable, he sells all he has to buy it. The common misinterpretation of this parable is that of a lost sinner who is seeking the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 reasons this is a wrong interpretation:

1) Man does not seek God; God seeks man.

Romans 3:11, "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God."

2) Man has nothing to sell in order to buy salvation.

3) Jesus Christ is not for sale.

Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

1 Peter 1:18, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;"

So what is this Pricey Pearl? This pearl is none other than the Bride of Christ, the church. The Merchant Man is the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave all that He had to purchase the church with His own blood.

I. HOW THE PEARL WAS WROUGHT (MATTHEW 13:45-46)

A. THE CHURCH IS FORMED FROM GRIT TO GLORY

Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

B. THE CHURCH IS FORMED FROM DEPTH TO HEIGHT

C. THE CHURCH IS FORMED FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

There is no darker place than in an oyster at the bottom of the sea. But the pearl is taken from darkness to light. A pearl is a gem that not only absorbs light; it also reflects light. This is a picture of the church.

D. THE CHURCH IS FORMED FROM START TO FINISH

The pearl grows layer, by layer, by layer. It is grown gradually, indivisibly, with no blemish. There are local churches throughout the ages, layer upon layer, but in the end, there will be one church without spot or blemish.

II. HOW THE PEARL WAS SOUGHT (MATTHEW 13:45-46)

Psalm 45:11, "So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him."

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

A. HE SEEKS THROUGH THE SPIRIT

John 16:7-11, "7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."

B. HE SEEKS THROUGH SUFFERING

Psalm 119:67, "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."

Psalm 119:71, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."

II Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

C. HE SEEKS THROUGH SORROWS

D. HE SEEKS THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES

"God doesn't love us because we are valuable; we are valuable because He loves us." – Adrian Rogers

III. HOW THE PEARL WAS BOUGHT (MATTHEW 13:46)

II Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

PRINCIPLES OF THE PARABLE:

- 1) We cannot buy Jesus; He is not for sale.
- 2) We didn't seek Jesus; He sought us.
- 3) Jesus made something beautiful and pure out of something that wounded His side.
- 4) We are a pearl of great price to Him.