

" Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

This is one in a group of parables Jesus put forth in his teachings on the kingdom of heaven.

I. Merchant seeking after goodly pearls:

Here we find a merchant, a trader who sought after good pearls. It was his business to find good pearls and buy them. One day he found a pearl of tremendous value and price. One he had never found before. So in order to obtain this great treasure he sold willingly all the others that he possessed and bought this pearl of great price.

Our parable teaches us there were goodly pearls but and there was ONE special pearl which was so superior in looks, value and durability. So much so, that when the trader found it, and recognized its value he was willing to sell all the others and buy this one.

1. Genuine and Artificial pearls:

Some pearls are not genuine but are artificial. The factories in Bohemia and Nuremburg are full of activity making artificial pearls. With alabaster, and scales, and glue, and wax they manufacture something which is a sham pearl, a substitute for the real pearl.

Real pearls are very costly: It does not take a very large pearl to be worth thousands of dollars. The King of Persia paid six hundred thousand livres for one pearl.

Cleopatra had a pearl worth three hundred and seventy five thousand dollars, and she dissolved it at a feast and then drank to the health of Marc Antony. History records that the King of Portugal had a pearl of almost indescribable value.

2. Pearls as an adornment: I say this somewhat in favor of the ladies. That I don't believe God despises jewelry. For instead of the variegated seasons, the earth would have had the same Colour all the year round. the tree would have yielded its fruit without leaf or blossom. Niagara would let down its water without thunder or winged spray in the sunlight. the clouds would have drawn their black bodies through the skies where now they resemble silvery skiffs with angelic crews, sailing through the

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archipelago of stars. If God had despised beauty and adornment He would not have made the caverns of the ocean great gardens of coral, and sponge and seaweed and pearls. No. God loves adornment from the fact that He has made it and allows Jesus Christ to be compared to a pearl.

A lovely string of pearls help to bring out the beauty in most any woman. Now this sermon may help some of you wives to get a nice string of pearls for Christmas or birthday.

Pearls are Durable:

Time does not rust a pearl. It passes from one royal family to another, from one generation to another, the same beautiful, exquisite thing, worth as much now as it ever was. Other gems may be spilt or ground but the pearl is unbroken of the wheel, and it is uninjured of fire. It is always bright. It is always beautiful.

II. The Merchant seeking after the Best: When he found the best he was willing to give up all in order to have it.

We should seek after the best:

1. In each other. look for the good things in your neighbor.

So often we are prone to specialize on the unpleasant things to be found in the other persons life. Never to mention the good things they do. I believe in everyone there is a certain amount of good to be found. Now you may have to look harder in some lives to find this but even though it is hidden you will find some good if you look for it. I had much rather hear some one speak of another person saying something pleasant about them. Rather than to hear just all bad things and these in a critical manner. Now this doesn't mean that we are to condon evil nor does it mean that we are beyond doing wrong.

- ① - *Christ must be sought after, even as a pearl.*
- ② - *Christ is unchangeable & durable.*
- ③ - *Christ adorns the soul.*
- ④ - *Christ is of inestimable value.*

III. Seeking The Pearl of Great Price. Seeking after the Spiritual

1. We hear of this great pearl, through the gospel. Which is Jesus Christ. Christ as the flawless gem and the greatest price ever. The Bible teaches us of this ONE great pearl of Salvation. We yearn for this, something better than the world can offer.

ILL. my brothers and I looking for pearls in oysters along the rivers edge.

2. The pearl found but not owned: The merchant found the ONE pearl of great price, then sold all to buy it.

We may know about Jesus Christ and His love and still be lost and outside of heaven.

Olga 2/23/69

V. 45 THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.

A pearl so valuable, the Merchant sold
all to purchase it.

The Price tag on the Kingdom of Heaven.
What it cost God through Christ to
redeem us from our sins, so that we
could enter heaven.

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Dual blessings (through our suffering):

1. To others:

2. Jesus can take our days of trouble and bless the individual in a personal way.

^{with others in art gallery.}
Ill. lady took a beautiful handkerchief from her purse to find a horrible ink spot from a leaky pen. Oh she said my lovely hankie is ruined. An artist standing by ask to see it. He quickly working from ink spot turned it into a beautiful picture.

Jesus can take the pain, sorrow, sickness etc. and turn them into blessings.

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