



A just weight
and balance



are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Just about 12 years ago,**
a Filipino fisherman made an amazing discovery in the sea off the coast of the Palawan Island, Philippines:
 - He found a pearl **inside a giant clam.**
 - He took it home and hid it under his bed – **keeping it as a good luck charm.**
 - When his tiny home burned down **the 75-pound pearl survived.**
 - It has been valued at **\$100 Million.**

- **Matthew 13:45**

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, **seeking goodly pearls:**

- **13:46** Who, when he had found one pearl of **great price,** went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

- People desire pearls not only for its money value, but for its beauty.
 - They find an aesthetic joy simply in possessing and looking at a pearl.

- **The ancient Egyptians** were particularly fond of their pearls.
- Many Egyptian leaders treasured pearls so much, that they were often **buried along with their cherished pearl collection.**

- One tale that has been passed through the ages, tells of how Cleopatra once crushed a pearl and dissolved it in a glass of vinegar, just to show Marc Anthony that she could host the most expensive meal in history.

- The Greek word for "pearl" means "unique".

- Our God is unique!

- Psalms 27:4

- **One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.**

- The main sources of pearls in those days were the shores of the Red Sea, but a merchant would scour the markets of the world to find a pearl which was of surpassing beauty.
- There are certain suggestive truths hidden in this parable.

- It is suggestive to find the Kingdom of Heaven compared to a pearl.
- To the ancient peoples, as we have just seen, a pearl was the loveliest of all possessions.
 - That means that the Kingdom of Heaven is the loveliest thing in the world

- **Let us remember**
what the Kingdom is.
- **To be in the Kingdom**
is to accept and
to do the will of God.

- That is to say,
to do the will of God
is no grim, agonizing thing;

- **It is a lovely thing.**
- Beyond the **discipline**,
- Beyond the **sacrifice**,
- Beyond the **self-denial**,
- Beyond **the cross**,
 - There lies the
supreme loveliness
which is nowhere else.

- **There is only one way**
 - to bring **peace** to the heart,
 - **joy** to the mind,
 - **beauty** to the life,
 - and that is to **accept** and to **do** the will of God.

- This parable **suggest** that there are **other pearls** but only **one pearl of great price.**

- That is to say,
there are
many fine things
in this world and
many things in which
one can find loveliness.

- One can find loveliness
 - In knowledge,
- In art and music and literature.
 - One can find loveliness in serving our fellow-men,
 - One can find loveliness in human relationships.

- Many seek after a great variety of things, which, at first sight, seem to them to be “goodly pearls.”
- Moral Reformation.
- Legal Righteousness,
- Religious Ritualism,
- A Profession of Faith,
- Church Membership,
- Works of Zeal, Devotion, and Piety, etc.

- For these things they are willing to exchange many things and imagine that they have made a good trade, until Christ is revealed in all the fullness of his glory and grace.
- But, they have not found “The Pearl of Great Price”.

- These are all lovely,
but they are all lesser loveliness.

- The supreme beauty lies in the acceptance of the will of God.
- This is not to belittle the other things;
- They too are pearls;
- But the supreme pearl is the willing obedience which makes us friends of God

- We find in this parable the same point as in the previous one but with a difference.

- In the “Parable of the Hidden Treasure” the man who was digging the field was not searching for treasure; It came on him all unaware.

- The man who was searching for pearls was spending his life in the search.

- But no matter whether the discovery was the result of a moment or the result of a life-time's search, **the reaction was the same**

- Everything had to be **sold** and **sacrificed** to gain the precious thing.

- Once again
we are left with
the same truth that,
however a man discovers
the will of God for himself,
whether it be
in the lightning flash
of a moment's illumination
or at the end of
a long and conscious search,
it is worth everything to accept it.

- The parable of “The Pearl of Great Price”

is intended to teach us

how precious,
highly valued and esteemed,

and greatly loved
the Lord Jesus Christ
is to God’s elect.

- Christ is the believer’s portion.

“Unto you therefore which believe,
he is precious”

(1Peter 2:7).

- The merchantman finds **"one pearl of great price."**
- The Lord does not see **merely the preciousness** of the saints,
 - But the **unity** and **heavenly beauty** of the assembly.
- Every saint is precious to Christ.
 - **'He loved the Church, and gave Himself for it.'**

- In our lesson last Sunday we saw the value to one who accidentally finds the “**hidden treasure**”
- But in our lesson for today **the person is on a mission** to find that which is of great value.

- He believes there is something out there worth looking for, or he would not be seeking it
 - When he finds it, he immediately recognizes its value and is willing to sell all to obtain it

- Neither this parable (nor the previous one) is suggesting we can "buy" or "earn" our salvation
- For salvation is "a gift".
Romans 6:23

- We can "buy" salvation only in the sense of gaining rightful possession of it

- Ephesians 2:8-9

- For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

- Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- **We take possession**
of salvation when
we submit to
the working of God
and the renewing
of the Holy Spirit
which takes place
as we are baptized into Christ.

- **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;**

- Some biblical examples...
 - The Ethiopian eunuch.
(Acts 8:26-38)
- His journey to Jerusalem to worship,
 - His reading of Scripture
while returning,
indicate he was spiritually searching
 - His immediate desire
to be baptized
shows his estimation
of the value of the salvation
offered through Christ

- Cornelius.
(Acts 10:1-33)
- His prayers and alms were indicative of his search for "righteousness"
- As promised by Jesus.
Blessed are they
which do hunger and thirst
after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.
(Matthew 5:6),

- Lydia.
(Acts 16:11-15)
 - Her meeting with other women to pray illustrates her spiritual searching
 - Upon hearing the things spoken by Paul, she and her household were baptized.
(Acts 16:15)

- These examples,
and the parable itself,
confirm the truthfulness
of Jesus' teaching
about those
"who hunger and thirst
for righteousness".

- That those who "**hunger**",
those who "**search**",
will indeed find
what God has for them!

- It might be that we may "stumble" across the blessings God has in Christ and His kingdom as in

"The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure".

- But do we want to risk our salvation on possibly "stumbling" across it?

- One may stumble across the “hidden treasure”
 - But, unless one **“sells all”**
 - One will **not** stumble into the kingdom of God.

- **What can we do**
to ensure that
we will find what
God has for us?

- We need to be like that merchant, "searching" for that "Pearl of Great Price".
- How does one do that in regards to spiritual matters?

- Follow the **example** of the Ethiopian eunuch.
(Acts 8:27-28)
- Be a **student** of the Scriptures
 - **Apply** the Scriptures to the best of your understanding
 - Be **open** to what the scriptures teach.

- Follow the example of the **Bereans**.
(**Acts 17:10-11**)
 - Apply diligence ("**readiness of mind**") to understand the scriptures.
 - Let the Scriptures **be your final authority.**

- **CONCLUSION**

- Like the **Ethiopian eunuch**,
the **Bereans**, **Cornelius**, **Lydia**,

- We need to search like
"The Merchant"
with a desire to
understand God's will.

- And find the
"Pearl of Great Price"

- May we also consider one final thought regarding “The Pearl of Great Price”.
 - We see the loveliness of the Church in the eyes of Christ.

- **Before conversion,**
the sinner is seen
feeding on husks
with the swine.
(Luke 15:16).
- But, upon leaving the pig pen
he is given a new garment of
“Garment of Righteousness” .
(Ephesians 6:14)

- And now Christ
in the midst of all the confusion
which the devil has wrought,
Christ sees in His saints
a treasure,

- And not only a treasure
but the beauty of His Church
in spite of all its
infirmities and **failure!**

- It is

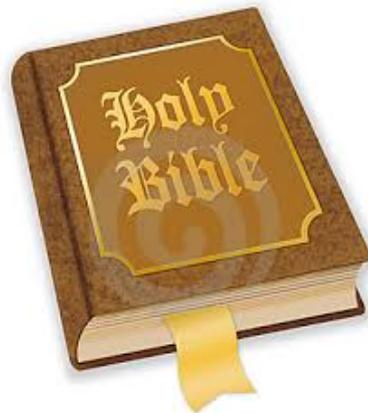
The Pearl of

Great Price

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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