



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**



- 03-04-2018 Tryon, NC