

44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. *Matthew 13:44-46*

**LESSONS FROM THE PEARL**

- The finest quality natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries, and because of this, the word pearl has become a metaphor for something very rare, fine, admirable, and valuable.
- Just about 10 years ago, a Filipino fisherman made an amazing discovery in the sea off the coast of the Palawan Island, Philippines: a two-foot long (26 inches to be exact) pearl inside a giant clam. He took it home and hid it under his bed - keeping it as a good luck charm. Recently, his tiny home burned down, but the 75-pound pearl survived. It is valued at \$100 Million.
- Intro: Typically, people approach this parable by saying that the pearl is salvation and that the buyer is the lost sinner. He does all that he can to obtain salvation. He works and he pays any price to get his soul saved. However, the real interpretation of the parable is this: The merchant is Jesus, the pearl is the church and the great price is the death of Jesus on the cross. It is God who is willing to pay any price to save a people from a death in Hell.

**IT IS A VALUABLE OBJECT**

- Pearls can be worth fortunes. In fact strings of pearls can actually be worth millions of dollars.
- The church was worth a fortune to God! He paid a high price to save the church from Hell: The death of His Son!
- He recognized the value of what He had found.
- He determined to have it.
- He sold everything to make His purchase.
- The church is worth a fortune to the world. She serves as a restraining force against the tide of evil that will one day sweep over all the world. Therefore, the church is worth any price that we might have to pay to keep her active and to keep her strong. It is worth our praying, our giving, our working, our sacrificing. The church is worth all we can give to her.

*the church  
cost Christ everything!*

**IT IS A COMPOSITE**

- There are at least three materials used in the formation of the pearl. These are, the offending material, saliva, and calcium.
- Church is made of people... **ALL HAVE SINNED!**
- Grace & Mercy
- The Church is composed of all kinds of people from varying backgrounds. here is only one thing in common - Salvation through the blood of Jesus!
- Malachi 3:17 "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels."

**IT IS FORMED FROM SOMETHING WORTHLESS**

- The pearl is formed from all types of junk. Pieces of sand, bone fragments from dead fish, etc.
- Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins
- We need to remember what we were...
- Because we live in a world where people are always good (regardless of their behavior) and no one is bad (because saying that might hurt their feelings) grace has lost it's worth.
- What's so special about grace when I'm already SO SPECIAL?

It is the memory of who I was that gives me a praise for who I am!

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**IT IS A THING OF UNIQUE BEAUTY**

- No two pearls are exactly alike!
- Different shapes, sizes.
- Pearls are available in various shades and colors, from purple, green, blue, black, pink, cream, white, and even multicolor overtones.
- God is not color blind!

**IT IS A HIDDEN WORK**

IT GROWS GRADUALLY

- After the grain of sand lands inside the oyster, it can take the creature up to 3 years to produce the pearl. The pearl grows hidden inside the oyster under the water.

- *Can't be seen until its ready!*

- The shell keeps it hidden/protected
- A Pearl in Process is a hidden work.
- The longer you are hidden...
- Have you ever felt like God keeps passing you by?

**IT REFLECTS LIGHT**

- One of the outstanding qualities of the pearl is its ability to reflect light.
- *A high-quality pearl will seem as though it's being illuminated from within, making it possible to see your own reflection.*
- A pearl with a **poor** luster quality features weak reflections that are quite blurred.

- **Your value as a believer is how well can the world see Christ when they look at you?**

**IT IS A UNITY**

- The pearl is the only gem known to man that cannot be cut.
- Large diamonds are cut and made into smaller, more valuable stones, but the pearl cannot be divided. To do so destroys all of its worth.

- **The pearl is a unity**

- **When any church is divided, it loses its value to the world!**

**IT IS THE PRODUCT OF SUFFERING**

- The pearl is the product of pain.