

March 1st, 2020
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Standing On Kingdom Ground
Sermon #8 Title: The Exhilaration of the Kingdom
Sermon #8 Text: (Matthew 13:44-45)

We remember that the first four parables were public, and in general negative about all of the problems and perversions that the Kingdom of Heaven on earth would endure.

Then last week, Christ moved inside the house, and changed the tune in private. Once in private, it was positive, and it was revelation of God's plan to redeem the family of Abraham through Jacob, we know them by the name Israel.

- He gave the story of the "Buried Treasure"
- Here He moves right into the Parable of the Precious Pearl.
- Parable #1 – The Propagation of the Kingdom
- Parable #2 – The Infiltration of the Kingdom
- Parable #3 – The Desecration of the Kingdom
- Parable #4 – The Contamination of the Kingdom
- But Parable #5 – The Determination of the Kingdom
- Parable #6 – The Exhilaration of the Kingdom

*Note – This parable is the other side of the coin from the previous parable. In fact, it is not uncommon for writers, and preachers to lump the two together, because they are so closely related.

- Nonetheless, We look at it separate from the previous one, but it is connected to the previous one.
- In some ways, it appears exactly the same
- In some ways, it is substantially different...

In order for us to "get it" the way that the Lord wanted His disciples to "get it", we have to hear it, and understand it, the most natural way that they would.

- We have to do as they did, and understand the three primary characters that our Lord gave us.

#1.) The Pearl, #2) the Purchaser, and #3) the Price
Like the others, The Kingdom of Heaven is on one side of the ledger, and a merchant man, looking for pearls, but buying one great pearl, is on the other side of the ledger, and so how do they fit?

*Note – Now in all transparency and fairness, the opinions on the meaning of this parable are as varied as the writers you may read. – There is not a "General Consensus" among Bible scholars. There are clear and definite interpretations.

- Now I will say this... Most of the interpretations have conclusions that are in fact true and Biblical, but that doesn't mean they come from this parable.

- For example, it is the same as the previous one. – A common understanding, by many recognized teachers, goes like this...
 - Christ is the Pearl – the Merchant Man is the sinner, and when he finds Jesus, he sells all that he has, and

follows after Him, and that's how you enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Well what is true?

- It is true that once someone has been redeemed by Christ, it is to be in his heart that like the disciples, will be willing to abandon their nets and follow Him.

- It is true that once someone sees that the worth of Christ is infinitely more valuable than anything in this life, they would trade it all, to be with Him.

Those are true things that are borne out by the rest of scripture, and are sound solid Biblical facts. – But that's not what THIS parable teaches.

- Well, bro. Jeff what do you think is not true?

- 1.) The sinner is not seeking Jesus, Jesus is seeking him. – There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

(now before someone says, wait a minute, I was looking, and searching for something, when I came across the gospel... The very reason you were looking in the first place is because the Spirit of God was first acting upon you, calling your will, to be willing to search.)

- 2.) The most obvious of all, in the parable the Pearl is for sale. In reality, Jesus cannot be bought! – Christ cannot be the pearl. – No man buys His salvation, by trading all He has to get Jesus.

- Now once people Get Jesus, they become willing to abandon, whatever He calls them to abandon, but that's from someone who IS saved, not how someone GETS Saved.

What then is the parallel between the Pearl-buying merchant man, and the Kingdom of Heaven?

The first thing we need to deal with is “the Pearl” – What is the Pearl?

*Note – The Pearl is the primary mystery within the parable. When once the Pearl is identified then the rest will fall into place.

I. The Pearl

*Note – We take what we've learned from the previous parables, to help us understand what is in this one.

A. The Contrasted Treasure

*Note – When we set the Pearl in this parable next to the Treasure in the previous parable we are given some insight.

1.) The treasure is in a field – the pearl is in the ocean or the sea...

2.) The treasure is made of minerals, whether it be coins, or gems, or jewels – but a Pearl is made of “living material.”

3.) The treasure was hidden... the Pearl was created out of sight...

4.) The thought of, the concept of, the premise of treasure was woven into the mind and values of these Jewish disciples. – Pearls had no place in Jewish culture. They did not view it as a valuable treasure, or hold it in high esteem.

*Note – In other words this most likely furrowed some brows among the disciples – Not that they didn't know what a pearl was, but a pearl essentially meant nothing to them.

5.) Now the treasure in the previous parable is clearly defined in the scripture...

In fact there is a hint in the previous parable about the identity of the pearl in this parable...

Exodus 19:5 – “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:”

Psalms 135:4 – “For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.”

*Note – The Bible clearly defined the treasure as the nation of Israel – which biologically, constitutes the descendants of Abraham that came through Jacob.

- Israel, the bloodline of Abraham through Jacob, is the treasure in the previous parable...

*Note – Now let's come full circle...

- The treasure is buried in the field – which was the kosmos, the creation...

- Israel is related, and identified with God's ownership of the Earth, over the World as a whole... - that's where the treasure is.

*Note – But the Pearl.... Comes out of the “sea, or the ocean.”

- If the treasure comes out of the world

And the Pearl comes out of the ocean, what does that mean...

Revelation 17:15 the Lord said to John, “And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

- The seas in scripture, primarily revealed in the book of the Revelation, have always been symbolic of the rest of the

nations of the world. The rest of the Families of the world. The rest of the descendants of the world.

*Note – The treasure in the field is to Israel, as the Pearl is to the rest of the nations of the world, in the sea.

Previous to this, Pearls are never mentioned in the Bible.

- Culturally, they were considered only valuable to Non-Jews.

- Culturally speaking, they were associated with Gentile Kings, Royalty, and their Economic Values.

*Note – This parable revealed to the Disciples the Intentional search of God's kingdom to also redeem “The Gentiles.”

*Note – Now what is a Gentile... Literally, anyone who is not a descendent of Abraham through Isaac!

- The Kingdom of Heaven is not only dealing with The Covenant People of Israel, but the Kingdom of Heaven is also seeking to CONVERT the rest of the people in the world.

B. The Converted People – “He is seeking goodly pearls”

1.) Some of your Bibles say, “Beautiful pearls.”

- it is first pictured as “plural” – Pearls.

*Note – Beautiful, or Goodly, is a Subjective term, meaning that they were “beautiful in the eyes of the beholder” – They were “goodly in the eyes” of the purchaser...

2.) What is a Pearl? – It is the perfect picture and natural illustration of what Christ does in the life of the sinner.

a.) It is death, covered by Life!

b.) It is a parasite, buried in beauty!

*note - Natural Pearls form when an irritant - usually a parasite and not the proverbial grain of sand - works its way into an oyster, mussel, or clam. As a defense mechanism, a fluid is used to coat the irritant. Layer upon layer of this coating, called 'nacre', is deposited until a lustrous pearl is formed.

- As one French scientist put it, "The most beautiful pearl is but the sarcophagus of a worm."

- The pearl begins when the oyster, or clam, or mollusk is attacked on the inside by a parasite...

- And then in some, but not all, of those hosts, it gets isolated, then encapsulated, then Life begins to insulate it in layer by layer by layer of Nacre, thus ultimately killing the parasite, and producing a beautiful pearl, made from life!

*Note – In the heart, soul, and nature, of every man is the parasite, or living worm, of sin. It is living death.

- Then to those who Christ comes into – This is a picture of what Christ does in you... not just for you.

(Here is the depth of Christianity... not just that Christ died for you, and He did... but Christ, through the Holy Spirit, comes inside you... He does not just "forgive your sin on the cross." He comes in to you, and isolates it, encapsulates, and layer upon layer, and upon layer of His life giving substance kills it, and creates a new thing...

- (He turns parasites into pearls!) – A pearl is a finished process by which Life has Conquered Death!

*Note – For Him to be seeing Pearls, is to seek MULTIPLE times, Parasites, have become Pearls. Multiple times, Life has conquered death and converted people.

*Note – Now the idea of a Pearl is the Gentiles – the Contrast with Israel. The Multiplicity of Pearls is the seeking of many Conversions of the Gentiles...

- But what is THE Pearl of Great Price?

C. The Concluded Church –

1.) It is what "shall be", but not what is as of yet!

*Note – Many and most theologians who follow this path, just say that the Pearl of Great price, is "the Church." What I will say, and for Biblical reason, is that this is the FUTURE, FINAL, CONCLUDED, and GATHERED Church.

- It is not right now, but what will be.

*Note – Why?

Because right now the Bible distinguishes between "Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God." – as three different things. 1st Corinthians 10:32 – "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:"

- Why? is this not just the church?

#1 – The Church as instituted by Christ has BOTH Jews and GENTILES in it.

- The Treasure is Just Israel

- The Pearl is Just Everyone Else

- the "Pearls" plural pictures the "here and now"

- the PEARL OF GREAT PRICE, pictures what SHALL BE!

- The Church is made up of Both

BUT – ONE DAY, there will be a Day – WHEN ALL of the REDEEMED, both Jew and Gentile, Covenant people AND CONVERTED People, will be in ONE ECCLESIA, ONE ASSEMBLY at ONE TIME, in ONE PLACE...

Right now, the “CHURCH” is only a VISIBLE ASSEMBLY with a SPIRITUAL BOND – There are MYRIADS of ASSEMBLIES.

- It is only UNIVERSAL in the INSTITUTIONAL Sense.

- But one day, when Christ is “FINISHED BUILDING” His church, it will be fully and finally gathered into one place at one time of both Jew and Gentile.

Now that’s the Pearl. – It is contrasted with the treasure, it is the Converted people, and will one day be “The Concluded Church.” – The Final Assembly.

II. The Purchaser

*note – now knowing the pearl, the purchaser is no real secret.

A. His Divine Identity – the Lord Jesus

1.) To the disciples, Jesus was the Son of God, He was the Messiah... they knew Him in His intrinsic relationship to Israel.

2.) Now they are to see Him in His Relationship to Everyone Else!

Paul would expound upon this to the churches in the New Testament. He wrote in Ephesians 2:11-14 – *“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye*

who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

Galatians 3:18 – *“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”*

*Note – Paul quoted Isaiah in Romans 15:12 – *“And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.”*

This parable to the disciples in private was for them to see Jesus in His Relationship to us! – We spend much of our theological time understanding Christ’s relationship to Israel, here, He is setting their Theological compass on His relationship with US!

B. His Described Activity – “seeking goodly pearls”

1.) In the parable He is a “merchant man”

a.) Some language specialists tell us this is in line with someone who is a “wholesaler.” – One who buys in bulk, and knows the markets.

2.) In the parable, is specifically looking...

a.) He is pictured as an “expert” in “search of.”

*Note – This is the authority on pearls looking for pearls.

- This is the AUTHORITY on SINNERS, LOOKING for SINNERS

- This is the AUTHORITY on REDEMPTION, LOOKING FOR the REDEEMED.

- The pearl is the finished product of the transformation.

- Christ looking for pearls, knows the finished product – He looks at people, and sees what He will have made out of them, when He is finished.

- He sees in you, what you will be, when the Process is FINISHED

*Note – Christ is not ONLY Looking to see you FORGIVEN, but He is LOOKING to SEE YOU FINISHED!

*Note – Here is why you cannot just want Christ to forgive you, and leave you alone – that's not what He offers, that's not what He does... It's not the "forgiven" part that He's looking for only, It's the FINISHED process that He sees, when He searches for the lost.

III. The Price – "All that He had." – The same price that He paid for the field, in the previous parable.

What does that tell you?

A. What He Had, Was Clearly Enough...All that He had, was sufficient to the task...

*Note – In 2006, a Filipino fisherman found in a giant clam what is currently the largest pearl in the world according to Forbes magazine. It is 2 feet long by 1 foot across. It weighs 75 pounds, over twice the weight of the previous record. The fisherman thought it would be a good luck charm, and took it home and put it under his bed. In 2016, his house burned down, and in the rubble, the clean-up crew found his pearl unharmed from the fire. Once known, Philippine officials verified its authenticity, weight and measurements. Official appraisals set the value of the pearl at over 100 million dollars.

- Relatively speaking, relatively few people in the world could bid on it...

1.) Now note this... The merchant had the resources to buy the pearl.

2.) We were not out of Christ's Price range!

a.) We sing Jesus Paid It All, because He in fact had the Resources to Pay!

*Note – Now here is what we mean when we preach, "that His BLOOD is sufficient."

Now LISTEN – What did the Blood of Christ do?

#1 – It PAID OUR SIN, AND #2 IT PURCHASED THE SINNER

- Salvation is when Christ PAYS YOUR DEBT, SIMULTANEOUSLY PURCHASING YOU as His Property!

- There is no such thing as having your sin paid for, but NOT your soul PURCHASED. He BOTH PAID YOUR DEBT AND PURCHASED you as HIS in one full and complete Payment!

Acts 20:28 – *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."*

Ephesians 1:7 – *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"*

Ephesians 1:13-14 – *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."*

1st Corinthians 6:19-20 – *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God
in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

*Note – I'm afraid that if there is anything lost in modern day American Christianity it is that Christians do not actually see themselves or their lives, as the ACTUAL Property of the man Jesus Christ.

- When He paid the debt, He bought the Pearl!

***B. What He Bought, He Sought No More - It was worth,
going out of business....*** "He sold all that he had!"

- There will be a day when Christ will stop
"new redemptions" among people.

- why? – Because there will be a day, when
people stop being born, when the end has
come, the judgment is finished, and all that
ever was born, is where they ever will be...

Conclusion: Till then...

- Christ is seeking "goodly pearls" and He has paid the
price for the entire body of the Gentile world, not
incidentally but on purpose.

- But know this... HE does not offer to pay your
sin debt, apart from purchasing your life.

- He does not just pay debts... He buys Souls
for Himself, for His Kingdom, for His treasure...