

# The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price



**Matthew 13:45-46**

○ **Review Lessons Taught:**

- **In Matthew 13:10, Jesus began using parables to teach about the kingdom of heaven. His disciples noticed the change in His method of teaching, and asked Him the question, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”**
- **According to Mark 4:34, “Jesus did not say anything to them without using a parable and when He was alone with His disciples He would explain what He meant.”**
- **Purpose: to assist us in growing in our understanding by exploring these divine truths found in Christ’s teaching. To teach us what they mean and how they relate to our present and future life in Christ Jesus.**
- **Goal: to allow the Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and draw us closer to Jesus Christ.**

**1. What is a parable?**

- **It is a simple yet powerful story that Jesus used to illustrate a great truth. Jesus used parables to help His followers understand spiritual truth.**
- **The word “parable” is taken from the Greek word that literally means to cast or throw alongside.**
- **Parables were stories that were “cast or thrown” alongside a truth in order to illustrate a divine truth.**

**2. The Parable of the Sower. (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23)**

- **Jesus uses three symbols in this parable: The Sower (farmer), the Seed, and the Soil. (vs. 3-9)**
- **The Sower (farmer) represents Jesus Christ.**
- **The Seed represents the Word of God or the Word of the kingdom. (vs. 3-8)**
- **The Soil (the ground) represents the hearts of the individual hearer or the spiritual state of those in the world. (vs. 19-23)**

### 3. The Parable of the Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)

- A man sows good seed. The Man is Jesus Christ. (vs. 37)
- The good seed. The children of the kingdom of God. These are the righteous men and women of God. These are true believers of Jesus Christ. (vs. 24, 38)
- They are sown in His field. The “field” represents the world. The owner of the “field” (the world) – is Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:2, Psalm 24:1-2)
- An enemy of Jesus Christ known as Satan (the devil) sowed tares (weeds) – represents the wicked (the children of the devil or the wicked one) and where did he sow them – in same field (the world). (vs. 25-26)

### 4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed. (Matthew 13:31-32) There are Three Things that Jesus describe in the Parable of the Mustard Seed. (vs. 31-32)

- Jesus Christ is describing the growth and greatness of His Kingdom. (Haggai 2:6-9, Hebrews 12:25-29, 1 Peter 4:14-17)
- Jesus Christ is describing the growth of Christianity and the effectiveness of His Church (the body of Christ) reaching the unbelievers or unsaved in the entire world. (Matthew 16:18, Acts 1:15, 2:38-47)
- Jesus Christ is describing the growth and effectiveness of every true believer. (Matthew 13:31-32)

### 5. The Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)

- What is leaven or yeast? It is an agent used to produce fermentation in dough.
- Throughout ancient Israel, leaven was a piece of fermented dough that was kept from a previous batch that was placed in the new dough to cause it to rise.
- In the Bible “leaven (yeast)” is used as a metaphor that symbolizes an influencing agent that has the ability to permeate the whole lump (dough).

- Jesus used “leaven (yeast)” as a positive influence to describe what the Kingdom of heaven is like. (Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21)
  - It symbolizes the growth and power of God’s Kingdom and its ability to affect the entire world through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- The Parable of the hidden treasure contains three main points:
    - 1) The Discovery. “The man discovers something of great value.”
    - 2) The Delight. “The man delight had greatly superseded everything else.”
    - 3) The Decision. “The man decision to sell everything in order to possess it.”
  - We must understand that this parable is not suggesting that in order to be saved, that you literally must go and sell all your possessions in order to come to Christ.
  - Salvation is a free gift of God’s grace through His Son Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

## The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price Matthew 13:445-46

- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl is often interpreted by many to be the same.
  - They both hold similarities between the two because each parable teaches the significance of finding something of great value and selling everything in order to possess it.
  - Again, let me reiterate that Jesus is not saying that a person must give up their possessions, be poor and broke in order to receive His wonderful gift of salvation.
- A. It’s important to understand that Jesus tells these two parables separately. So, we must ask some specific questions in order to understand Christ specific reason.

1. What was Jesus' point in teaching this parable separately?
2. What is the significance of the merchant and the pearl? How do they relate to our lives as true believers?
3. What was Jesus' message to every true follower of His?

**B. The parable of the Pearl of Great Price contains three main points: (Matthew 13:45-46)**

1. **The Experience.** "The merchant was searching for beautiful pearls. He knew exactly what he is looking for because of his experience in the business." (vs. 45)
2. **The Expectancy.** "The merchant was searching and found the one pearl that was great in value. He knew if he searched long enough, he would find what he was looking for. (vs. 46)
3. **The Excellency.** The merchant knew the pearl that he found was excellent and nothing could compare to it. He sells all that he has and buys the pearl. (vs. 46)

**C. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45-46)**

1. Jesus again uses a parable to describe the Kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 13:45-46)
2. Jesus teaches the contrast between the parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price. (Matthew 13:44-46)
  - The parable of the Pearl refers to a merchant or businessman, while the parable of the Hidden Treasure refers to a worker or laborer.
  - The parable of the Pearl refers to a merchant who is intentionally seeking, while the parable of the Hidden Treasure refers to a worker or laborer who unintentionally discovers the hidden treasure in a field he didn't own.
  - The parable of the Pearl describes a "merchant or businessman" who was looking for a pearl of great value, while the parable of the Hidden Treasure describes a man who simply found the treasure.
3. What is the main theme of the parable of the Hidden Treasure and the parable of the Pearl?

- a. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure's main theme: (Matthew 13:44)
  - 1) The Discovery. "The man (worker or laborer) discovers something of great value."
  - 2) The Delight. "The man's (worker or laborer) delight (joy), had greatly superseded everything else."
  - 3) The Decision. "The made (worker or laborer) decision to sell everything in order to possess it."
- b. The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price's main theme: (Matthew 13:45-46)
  - 1) The merchant is "seeking" beautiful pearls.
  - 2) The merchant "finds" one pearl of great price.
  - 3) The merchant "sells" all he has and buys the pearl of great price.
- c. The Parable of the Pearl is believed by some to have two interpretations.
  - The First interpretation of the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
    - 1) The merchant man represents Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-4, 11-14)
    - 2) The many pearls represent potential believers which Christ seeks after. (Luke 19:10)
    - 3) The one great pearl that is found represents the body of Christ (The Church, body of believers). (Ephesians 5:25-27, Colossians 3:18-22)
  - The Second interpretation of the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
    - 1) The merchant man "seeks" represents men who seek after the truth (pearls).
    - 2) The merchant man "finds" represents men who find the truth of Jesus Christ (priceless).
    - 3) The merchant man "sells" represents men who willingly give up all for Jesus Christ.
- D. The Experience of being in Christ Jesus and a part of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:45-46, 2 Corinthians 5:17).
  - Jesus uses the word "merchant" which meant that he was an experienced businessman.
  - There are Six things that can be learned from the Merchant's experience.

1. The merchant knows from experience that when a pearl is taken out of an oyster, there is nothing that can be done to improve its worth. (Romans 10:9-10, 13, Matthew 11:28-30, Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 6:23)
  2. The merchant knows that it would require someone with experience to determine know the pearl's true value or true worth. (John 3:16, Hebrews 4:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
  3. The merchant knows that the value of the pearl is determined by its shape. It must be perfectly round. (1 Peter 2:21-25, Philippians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12)
  4. The merchant knows that the value of the pearl is determined by the purity of its color. It had to be white. Any yellow color in it would decrease the value of the pearl. (Psalm 51:5-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, 1 John 1:7-9, Hebrews 1:3, 9:22, 10:1-17, Revelation 19:6-9)
  5. The merchant knows that the value of the pearl is determined by the size. The larger the pearl, the more valuable it would be. (John 14:11-17, 1 John 4:4, Philippians 4:11-13, Romans 8:31-37)
  6. The merchant knows that the pearl could be used for adornment, because of the true beauty that it possessed and for its investment purposes because of its worth. (Revelation 21:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 24:36-44, Luke 21:34-36, Titus 2:13, Colossians 3:1-4, 1 John 3:2)
- E. The Expectation that comes from being in Christ and dwelling in His Kingdom. (Proverbs 10:27-28, Jeremiah 29:11, Philippians 1:19-24)
1. The believer's earnest expectation or greatest hope comes from being in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:19-24)
  2. The believers who are in Christ and serve Him faithfully – walk and live a life of expectancy. (Proverbs 10:27-29, 23:17-19, Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8, Ephesians 3:20, Romans 8:28)
  3. How does the parable of the Pearl of Great Price help change our view of Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Kingdom? (Matthew 13:45-46)
    - First of all, we must view this parable from the heart of Jesus Christ and from the eyes of God. (Hebrews 11:6, James 1:17)

- Second of all, we must view this parable from our own heart and eyes to determine what we truly believe about God and Jesus Christ. (Matthew 15:7-9, 22:37)
  - Thirdly, Jesus makes it clear that the merchant was looking specifically for fine pearls that was great in value. (Matthew 13:45-46)
4. Jesus makes it very clear that the merchant regarded the pearl that he had found was expensive and worth a great sum of money. (Matthew 13:45)
- The King James version refers to it as a “pearl of great price.”
  - The New International Version refers to it as a “pearl of great value.”
  - This Greek phrase “great value or cost” was used in John 12:3-8 and Matthew 26:7-13.
- a. Pearls are a symbol of truth and of life.
- There is only one pearl that is worth more than the world itself – the pearl of Jesus Christ Himself. (Colossians 2:6-7)
  - Men seek truth and life in things in the world such as philosophy, science, technology, religion, fame, pleasure, position, power, possessions, and money. (Colossians 2:8-10)
- F. The Excellency of God and the Greatness of His Kingdom. (Psalm 8:1-10, 24:1-2, 86:8-10, 139:7-10, 145:1-7, 1 Chronicles 29:11, Isaiah 40:28-31)
- This parable is a true reminder of those who should know what true excellence looks like.
  - When it comes to a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, everything else becomes secondary in importance.
  - There are Four things that a believer must do to take hold of the most excellent thing of all:
    1. You must sell all.
    2. You must surrender all.
    3. You must sacrifice all.
    4. You will secure all.