

## SERMON OUTLINE

<b>SERMON TITLE:</b>	The Strange Mystery of the Precious Pearl
<b>SERMON REFERENCE:</b>	Matthew 13:45-46
<b>LWF SERMON NUMBER:</b>	#2055

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
  - a) Matthew 13:45-46
  - b) A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
    - i) The seven parables in Matthew 13 explain mysteries.
      - (1) Matthew 13:10-11
      - (2) They are mystery stories or sacred secrets that God has let us in on.
  - c) The parable we will look at today is the story of a priceless pearl.
    - i) A merchant, who loves pearls, finds that one great, priceless, and precious pearl.
      - (1) He sells everything that he has in order to purchase that one pearl.
    - ii) This is a parable of the kingdom of Heaven.
      - (1) Matthew 14:45
    - iii) This is the most misinterpreted parable out of these seven parables.
  - d) How it is misinterpreted:
    - i) The average interpretation is that the merchant is the lost sinner who is seeking the Lord Jesus Christ.
      - (1) He is on a search for God.
        - (a) He is looking for lost pearls.
        - (b) This pictures a lost sinner trying to find salvation.
      - (2) This interpretation is wrong because the sinner is never on a search for God.
        - (a) The sinner never takes the initiative; God takes the initiative.
          - (i) Romans 3:11
          - (ii) This merchant man cannot picture a lost man who is seeking God.
        - (b) God seeks man.
          - (i) Adam hid from God in the Garden of Eden.
          - (ii) Had God not taken the initiative and gone after him, Adam never would have come to the Lord.
            1. Genesis 3:9
        - (3) If you sought Him, then it was because He first sought you.
      - ii) When this man finds Christ, he sells all that he has in order to buy Christ.
        - (1) A sinner is bankrupt.
          - (a) He has nothing in the sight of God.
            - (i) What can he sell?
            - (ii) What can he give?
          - (b) He has nothing at all.
            - (i) He has no riches of his own to buy Christ with.
            - (ii) There is in our flesh no good thing.
              1. Romans 3:12
              2. Isaiah 64:6
          - (2) What would a lost sinner buy Christ with?
            - (a) We're not seeking Christ by nature.

- (b) Even if we were seeking Christ, we don't have anything to buy Him with.
  - iii) Jesus Christ is not for sale.
    - (1) It is blasphemy to say that we could buy the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (2) Salvation is not something that we earn; it is not something that we can buy.
      - (a) Titus 3:5
      - (b) Romans 6:23
    - (3) We will never buy the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - e) The pearl of great price is not Jesus.
    - i) The pearl of great price is the church.
  - f) The merchant man is the Lord Jesus who has purchased the church with His own precious blood.
  - g) The pearl represents the church purchased by the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - h) In today's message, we will look at three things about this precious pearl:
    - i) How this pearl was wrought.
    - ii) How this pearl was sought.
    - iii) How this pearl was bought.
- 2) HOW THIS PEARL WAS WROUGHT
- a) The formation of a pearl is a picture of the church.
    - i) The pearl is formed inside an oyster or clam.
    - ii) There comes some impurity, some bit of dirt, grit, or irritation that imbeds itself in that living being.
    - iii) The oyster or clam exudes a substance and begins, layer-by-layer, to cover that hideous, ugly, and filthy impurity.
      - (1) It covers it until something ugly has been covered and something beautiful has been made.
    - iv) This pearl begins to grow.
    - v) The pearl is not like any other gem because it is made of something living, and it cannot be divided without destroying it.
  - b) The church has gone from guilt to glory like a pearl.
    - i) God cannot remember our sin anymore because it has been covered by His grace.
      - (1) He has taken the grit and grime and, layer-by-layer, He has covered it.
    - ii) He was wounded for our transgressions.
      - (1) Isaiah 53:5
    - iii) He has taken our guilt, and He has clothed it with His glory.
  - c) The church has gone from depth to height like a pearl.
    - i) The pearl down in the bottom of the ocean has been brought up out of the troubled sea.
    - ii) It has been made fit to be worn in the bosom of the King, to be on display in the glory, and we will shine forever in the glory.
    - iii) Having come from great depth, the church is going to great height.

- d) The church has been taken from darkness to light like a pearl.
    - i) We will never find a darker place than inside an oyster at the bottom of the sea.
      - (1) But the pearl is taken from darkness to light.
    - ii) The pearl is a gem that not only absorbs light, but it also reflects light.
      - (1) Therefore, it is a picture of the church.
    - iii) Like the church, the pearl has gone from grit to glory.
  - e) The pearl, like the church, is formed from start to finish.
    - i) The pearl grows layer-by-layer-by-layer.
      - (1) It is grown gradually, indivisibly, and with no blemish, if it is a perfect pearl.
      - (2) It cannot be divided.
      - (3) It cannot be carved.
    - ii) There are not two churches.
      - (1) In the end, there is one church without spot, wrinkle, or any blemish whatsoever.
  - f) This pearl of great price represents the church.
- 3) HOW THIS PEARL WAS SOUGHT (MATTHEW 13:46)
- a) Wonders of wonders that Jesus is seeking us.
  - b) Wonder of wonders that He loves us.
  - c) Psalm 45:11
    - i) You are very precious to Him.
    - ii) You are a beautiful thing to Him.
  - d) You were in His heart before the foundation of this world.
  - e) Jesus is the seeking Savior.
    - i) Luke 19:10
    - ii) Jesus is the merchant man.
    - iii) Jesus is the one seeking the pearl.
  - f) How does He seek?
    - i) He seeks through the Holy Spirit.
      - (1) We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit of God to seek us out.
      - (2) It is the Holy Spirit of God who puts His finger on our hearts and convicts us of sin.
      - (3) If the Holy Spirit of God is speaking to you, then don't trifle with Him.
        - (a) God speaks through His Spirit.
    - ii) God seeks through suffering and sickness.
      - (1) Have you been sick?
      - (2) Have you been in pain?
      - (3) Has a bad message come from the doctor?
        - (a) That is God who is seeking you.
      - (4) Sometimes a person has to be put flat on his back in order to look up.
    - iii) God seeks through sorrows.

- (1) Many times at a funeral, someone has been led to Jesus who otherwise would not have come to Him.
  - iv) God seeks through Scriptures and through songs.
  - v) There are many ways that God seeks us.
  - g) The Lord desires us.
  - h) God does not love us because we are valuable.
    - i) We are valuable because He loves us.
    - ii) He has set His attention upon us.
- 4) HOW THIS PEARL WAS BOUGHT (MATTHEW 13:46)
- a) The merchant man sold all that he had and bought this pearl.
    - i) That is the reason why we know that the pearl is an illustration and picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b) 2 Corinthians 8:9
    - i) When someone sells all that he has, he is bankrupt at that moment.
    - ii) Jesus left Heaven.
      - (1) Think of the price that He paid.
        - (a) He became a pauper.
        - (b) Jesus came to a manger that we might go to a mansion.
  - c) Jesus paid a fearful price to buy the pearl of great price.
  - d) The anticipatory sufferings of the Lord Jesus:
    - i) Do you know what it is to anticipate trouble?
      - (1) Many times, the anticipatory suffering is terrible in itself.
    - ii) From the moment Jesus was aware of Himself as a youth, He lived in the shadow of the cross.
      - (1) Psalm 88:15
    - iii) When Jesus the little lad played in the shavings of Joseph's carpenter's shop, every beam that He saw reminded Him of the crossbeams that He would be nailed upon.
    - iv) Every nail that He saw would remind Him of the nails that would be put into His quivering palms.
    - v) When the Lord Jesus would go to the temple, every lamb that was slain would remind Him that He was the Lamb of God who would take the sin of the world.
    - vi) When others would see the flower of every rose, Jesus saw the thorns that would remind Him that He would be crowned with thorns.
  - e) The sufferings of Jesus in dark Gethsemane:
    - i) Matthew 26:36-46
    - ii) Gethsemane was where the Lord Jesus Christ drank that bitter cup.
    - iii) It was where Jesus prayed, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me."
    - iv) Jesus knew that He must become sin.
    - v) Jesus knew that the fires of God's wrath would burn themselves out upon Him.

- vi) He asked His disciples to watch and pray, but their eyes closed in sleep.
  - (1) From that time on, Jesus would not close His eyes until He closed His eyes in death.
- f) Think of the price that Jesus paid when He stood before Pilate, had a mock trial, and lost an election to a common criminal.
  - i) Matthew 26:57-68
  - ii) Matthew 27:11-26
- g) Think of the indecencies that they put upon the Lord Jesus.
  - i) They stripped Him naked, beat Him with clubs, spat in His face, and put a wilted reed in His hand.
  - ii) They crowned Him with a crown of thorns.
  - iii) Why?
    - (1) Because He was purchasing the pearl of great price.
- h) This merchant man (the Lord Jesus) gave all that He had.
  - i) Matthew 13:46
  - ii) Matthew 27:26-45
  - iii) They flayed His back until ribbons of flesh hung down.
    - (1) He was beaten by a psychopathic dungeon keeper who flayed Him with a cat of nine tails.
    - (2) Men would often die of this.
  - iv) They laid Him down on splintery wood, nailed Him to the cross, and dropped the cross in a hole with a thud.
- i) The heavens were black, and the sun refused to shine.
  - i) God the Father turned His back upon God the Son.
    - (1) Psalm 22:1
    - (2) Psalm 22:3
  - (a) God is a holy God, and a holy God cannot look upon sin.
- j) God the mighty maker died for man, the creature of sin.
  - i) He could have called ten thousand angels, but He didn't do it.
  - ii) He died alone on Calvary.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) What does all of this tell us?
  - i) We cannot buy Jesus.
    - (1) He is not for sale.
  - ii) We are not seeking Him.
    - (1) He sought us.
  - iii) Jesus took our sin.
    - (1) He covered it with the glory of His grace.
    - (2) He made something beautiful out of something that wounded His side.
    - (3) We are that pearl of great price.
- b) If you would like to be saved and give your heart to Jesus Christ, then there are four basic things that you need to know.
  - i) God loves you, and He greatly desires you.

- (1) The Lord Jesus is seeking you today.
- (2) Jesus has come to seek and to save.
  - (a) Luke 19:10
- (3) Jesus is the merchant man.
  - (a) He is the one seeking you.
- ii) You are a sinner.
  - (1) You are a sinner by birth.
    - (a) You were born with a sinful nature.
  - (2) You are a sinner by choice.
    - (a) You have sinned by your own choice.
  - (3) You are a sinner under condemnation, for your sin deserves judgment.
- iii) There is no way that you can undo your sin.
  - (1) The wages of sin is death.
    - (a) Romans 6:23
  - (2) There is no way you can buy your salvation.
  - (3) You are totally helpless to save yourself.
- iv) Jesus Christ is God's answer for your sin.
  - (1) Jesus, with His precious blood, paid your sin debt.
  - (2) The Bible teaches that if you will receive Him by faith, then He will forgive every sin.
    - (a) He will cleanse you.
    - (b) He will give you a new nature.
    - (c) One day, He will take you to Heaven.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16