

The Merchant Man and The Pearl of Great Price

Mt 13:45 Again, *the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

"*the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man,*" Take notice of this phrase. We will come back to this thought later. Vernon McGee, in an exposition on this text, pointed out that the merchant man is a picture of Jesus Christ. This, coupled with the Holy Spirit leading of the mind, led me to understand something I had not seen before.

Who is the merchant man? The merchant man is a picture of Jesus Christ incarnate. Jesus came into this world to do the Father's will; and to do that, he had to become incarnate. In incarnation he purchased to himself one pearl of great price. That pearl of great price is the picture; of the church of Salvation by Grace, and every heir of salvation and eternal life, that will be drawn to it by the power of God. I did a study on pearls, and preached upon it once, at the request of Sister Christine Dryden. God was very gracious in the revelations at that time, but this pearl I missed.

"*went and sold all that he had*" Jesus left his place of his deity in the immortal heaven, and came into the world incarnate, seeking to save those the Father had given unto him. The only way that this could happen was for him to leave heaven and become incarnate, which would allow him to give himself on the cross, shed the only blood sacrifice that was acceptable to God the Father, for the remission of the sins of those the Father gave unto him. He (***sold all that he had***) You see; Jesus gave all that he had in incarnation, his very life, to procure the salvation of those people God the Father had given unto him.

Do you know how a pearl is made? A pearl is made by some irritant taken into a mollusk such as an oyster or clam. This irritant can be several things, usually disease or parasites, but it is always perceived by the oyster as a cause of death. The oyster detecting the irritant wraps the irritant up in an enclosure and then begins to coat that enclosure with secretions, which cover it and seal it up to prevent escape or further harm to the oyster. The application of these secretions is what makes a pearl.

Did you know that a pearl is unlike other precious stones? How? To make diamonds and other precious stones be of great value they must be cut and polished. If you cut a pearl you will ruin it and it will have no value. This demonstrates to us that man can't make a Christian; it can only be done by the grace of God. Man cannot choose to become a pearl of great price; he is made one by the grace of God, through Holy Spirit regeneration, being born again.

Now consider this; we see from the means by which a pearl is made, the picture that Christ is the means by which this pearl of great price is made. The irritant placed upon Jesus was the sin of all those that God had given unto him. Our sin laid upon Jesus caused his head to be crowned with thorny crown, his body to be beaten, spat upon, and many agonies that we could never described or understand. Jesus actually suffered the torments of hell, on our behalf, so we would not have to go there.

His blood shed is a picture, of the enveloping and enclosing of our sins, that they might be hid from God the Father and from himself. Next, he hath sent forth his Holy Spirit to come into the hearts of

those he suffered for. They, being born again and their sins hidden by his shed blood, are now enrobed in the righteousness of Christ, and the abundance of God's blessing are continuously poured out upon them.

But you will object, the merchant man found "**one pearl of great price.**" That is very right and true. There are many pearls, (people who are saved by the grace of God) so many that no man can number them. However, there is only one kingdom of heaven on earth and in eternity, which is the picture of the one pearl of great price. Scripture teaches us; all those saved, by the grace of God through Jesus Christ, are considered together as one body, which is the kingdom of heaven (or the bride of Christ) in eternity.

You understand; there are many religions in the world, but only one kingdom of heaven, which on earth is defined as Christendom. We will all be present at the marriage supper of the Lamb, seen in: **Re 19:7-9; 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."**

Now, let's return to the phrase: "**the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man,**" Do you understand that in the eternal kingdom of God we shall be like Christ? Scripture teaches us this in: **1Jo 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."**

How is it we shall be like unto him?

- We shall have a resurrected body made like unto his: **Ro 6:5 "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"**
- We shall have bodies incorruptible and immortal: **1Co 15:51-52; 51 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."**

We must never forget; The pearl of great price is only here, because of the finished work of redemption accomplished by Christ Jesus. This pearl of great price was purchased by and for Christ Jesus. Never forget; we are the irritant that was took in, that Jesus might procure us unto himself. After all, Jesus tells us plainly in his word: **Joh 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Aren't you glad there is a kingdom of heaven on earth? Aren't you glad that Jesus has been revealed to us as the merchant man, who purchased this kingdom of heaven on the earth? Aren't you glad that Jesus paid it all? Praise the Lord for salvation, by the grace of God, and eternal life, in the immortal heaven and eternal glory! Hallelujah! Oh yes! Thank you, Lord Jesus! Amen!