

Matthew 13:45-46 The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price

Introduction: This is another kingdom parable. That is, it is designed to teach us something about Christianity.

I. The story in the parable, Verses 45-46.

- A. The parable is built around a business man and a man who deals in the buying and selling of pearls.
- B. This man would travel to some place where pearls are found.
 - 1. There he would buy pearls from the natives. (The Persian Gulf south of Iran and the Indian Ocean off the southern tip of India produce the finest pearls.)
 - 2. He would then transport the pearls to the large market areas of the world to re-sale.
 - 3. Nineveh, Babylon and Egypt were the chief markets for pearls.
 - 4. The Jews did not place great value on pearls, and therefore did not provide a market place. (But they did value the pearl merchants who passed thru their land and were familiar with the things Jesus described in the parable.)
- C. This particular man ran across one special pearl of rare quality.
 - 1. It was a once-in-a-lifetime find.
 - 2. But the usual operating capital was not sufficient to buy it.
 - 3. He sold all the pearls he had in order to gain enough funds to buy this pearl. (Which he kept for himself.)

II. The moral of the story. (The point of the parable.)

- A. Some say that the point of the parable is to point out the great value of the salvation of the soul.
 - 1. And the salvation of the soul is indeed valuable.
 - 2. It is more valuable than all the wealth of the world. (pearls, etc.)
 - 3. But that is not the point that Jesus was making in the parable.
 - 4. There is no way in the world that the sinner can merit salvation. (He cannot buy it at any price, nor earn it.)
- B. The parable illustrates Jesus Christ coming into the world to seek and to save lost men.
 - 1. But before He came on the scene John the Baptist had already been at work preaching repentance and faith.
 - 2. Jesus took the disciples John had already gathered (like taking pearls that divers had already harvested) and he called these men to be His disciples.
 - 3. He then took the whole number and organized them together into one New Testament church. (He did not get things ready for somebody else to found His church, but He did it Himself during His personal ministry.)
 - 4. The He went to Calvary and paid the purchase price, Acts 20:28.

III. Some points for special emphasis.

- A. The merchant man bought just the one pearl of great price and Jesus organized just one church.
 - 1. It is true that He left instructions for this church to do mission work and organize churches in all the world.
 - 2. These were not to be of a new and different kind, but of the same kind that Jesus established.

3. Any church and denomination that has its origin as to kind since the days of Christ on earth is not of Christ. (Not a scriptural church.)
 4. The parable of the buried treasure emphasized the redemption price for salvation; this one emphasizes the founding of the New Testament church system.
- B. This parable also emphasizes the great value of the New Testament church.
1. Jesus loved it and gave Himself for it. (Gave life blood.)
 2. The New Testament church is the world's greatest institution. It is more beneficial to mankind than any other single institution in the world. (It is a lighthouse for those lost in sin – a hospital for the spiritually sick – a university teaching the wisdom of God – a place of encouragement for the troubled – a place of rest for the weary – a place of prayer for believers – a place of strength for the weak – a place of sweet fellowship with the finest people on earth – a banquet hall for feasting on God's word – a place of worship of the High and Holy God – a treasure house of spiritual wealth – a pearl of great price which Jesus purchased with His blood.)
 3. A church's value is not determined by its size alone, but by the manner it reflects the light of Christ.
- C. Beware.

Conclusion:

I would not ask the unsaved to join the church, but I do ask you to get ready to face God in judgment. (Repent and trust Jesus.) Romans 10:13.

I do ask you who are saved and who are members to love this church and to give your best for this church for Jesus' sake. (If you are inactive, get active.)

I ask you who are saved and in need of a church home to consider coming to work for Christ thru this great church. (She may not be perfect, but she is a pearl of great price.)

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