

# The Pearl Of Great Price



# What Is A Parable?

- **Matthew 13:34-35 (Psalm 78:2)**
  - **Parable / Greek “Parabole” / Strong’s #3850**
    - **“Casting or placing side by side”**
    - **“To compare likeness or similitude”**
- **Matthew 13:11**
  - **“To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven...”**
    - **Stories, comparisons and understanding has been granted.**



# What Is A Parable?

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is intended to be ***similar*** to a real event or a comparison that has to be ***interpreted*** to reveal the true meaning .

# **Why Use Parables?**

## **Why Not “Just The Facts”?**

### **■ Mark 4:11-13**

- “...To you has been given the mystery of the Kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables...”**
- The Bible cannot be understood without outside help.**

### **■ Romans 11:32-33**

- According to the Apostle Paul, the meaning is veiled from most of mankind, until God offers them salvation.**

## **Application: Parables Are Keys to the Kingdom of God**

- The keys to *open* understanding are contained in Christ. He gives those keys to whom He will.**
- The parables of Jesus are keys to the Kingdom of God, that unlock the knowledge to Life, if we will heed the revealed understanding and warnings of the parables.**

# Parable of the Hidden Treasure

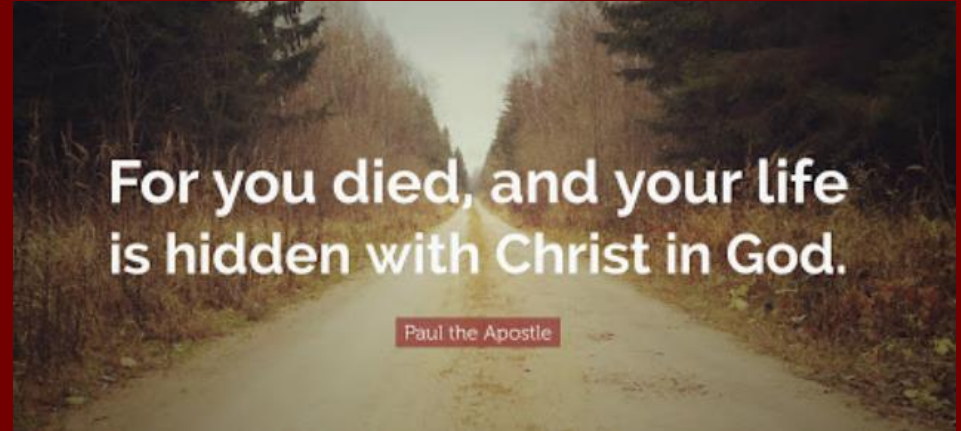
- **What does the treasure hidden in a field represent?**
- **In the Old Testament: God called Israel His "Special Treasure"**
  - **Exodus 19:5** - Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.
  - **Psalms 135:4** - For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.
  - **Malachi 3:16-17** - Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."

# Parable of the Hidden Treasure

- **What does the treasure hidden in a field represent?**
- **In the New Testament: God's Elect are His "Special People"**
  - **I Peter 2:9-10- But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."**
- **Galatians 6:15-16**
  - **"For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation...those who will walk (follow) by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God."**

# Parable of the Hidden Treasure

- **Are We Hidden In Christ?**
- **Colossians 3:3**
- **John 1:9-10**
- **John 17:11, 17**



For you died, and your life  
is hidden with Christ in God.

Paul the Apostle

## **John 1:9-10 (NASB)**

There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

## **John 17:11**

I am no longer in the world,  
but they are in the world,  
and I am coming to You. Holy Father,  
protect them by Your name  
that You have given Me,  
so that they may be one as We are  
one.



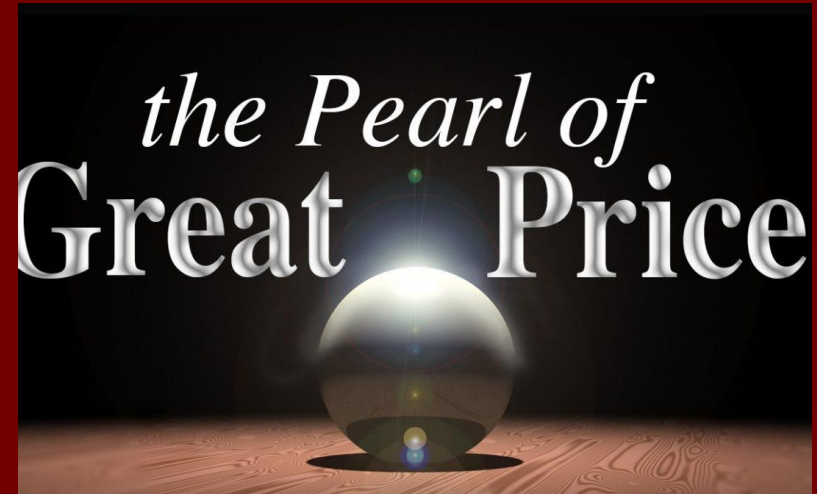
# Parable of Hidden Treasure

- "... joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
- Jesus gave His all, the Ultimate Sacrifice – His Life and His Blood for:
  - John 3:16-17
  - Acts 20:28
  - Revelation 19:7
  - Romans 8:34
  - Hebrews 4:14-16
  - Hebrews 9:24



# Parable Of The Hidden Treasure / Parable of the Costly Pearl

- The parable describes the preciousness of God's elect in preparation for the coming Kingdom of God and "The Value" of "The Sacrifice", as well as the high cost to God of acquiring potential members of His Kingdom.



## Distinctions Between Parables Of The Hidden Treasure and The Costly Pearl

- The Treasure is made up of units of precious things, such as coins and gems of various kinds, although they are collectively one treasure.
- The Pearl, however, is a single object. These two illustrations—both of which conclude at the same place, the completion of the purchase—represent different aspects of the same truths: the *costliness* of the Treasure or Pearl, and the *joy* of the Purchaser.

# Parable of the Costly Pearl

## ■ Matthew 13:45-46

- “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”
- The word of “Pearl” is *margarites*, in Greek (Strong's #3135). The word means, “pearl”.
  - Biblical Usage – “a proverb, i.e. a word of great value”
  - Used various scriptures; Matthew 7:6, I Timothy 2:9, Revelation 17:4; 18:12, 16 and 21:21

# Parable of the Costly Pearl

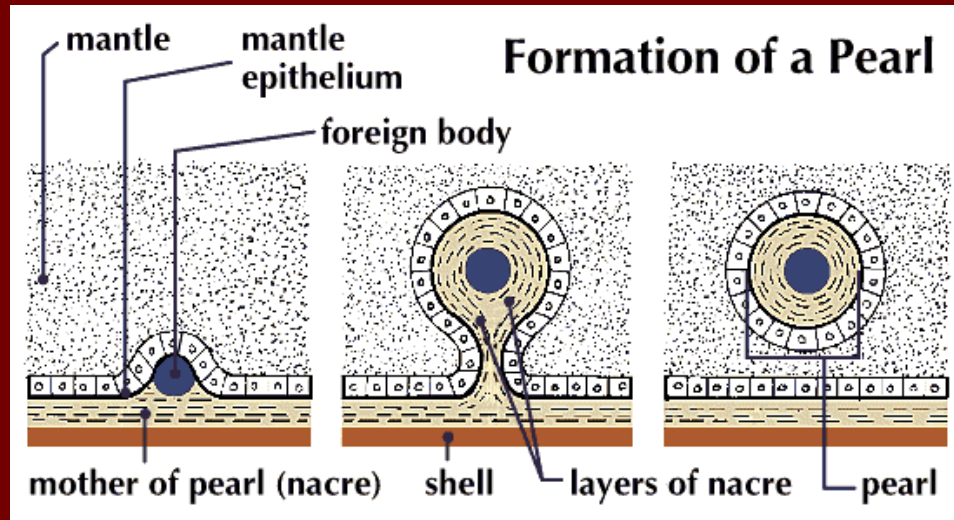
- **Who does the merchant represent?**
- **The term “merchant”, according to Strong’s means “one on a journey, whether by sea or by land (trader, as opposed to a retailer)**
  - **Luke 19:9-10-** And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
  - **John 6:44-** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
  - **Romans 3:10-11-** as it is written,  
**THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;  
THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,  
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;**

# Parable of the Costly Pearl

- **Using the word “Seeking” helps identify the merchant, as Jesus Christ**
- **The term “merchant”, according to Strong’s means “one on a journey, whether by sea or by land (trader, as opposed to a retailer)**
  - **Luke 15:1-7- “ What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ... for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.**
  - **I Peter 2:25; 5:4**
  - **John 10:1-18**

# Parable of the Costly Pearl

- **What could be the significance of the Pearl?**
  - Unlike other gems, pearls are produced by a living organism, an oyster, as the result of an injury. It usually begins forming around a grain of sand or an egg of some parasite that invaded the oyster. The oyster protects itself by layering the irritant with nacre (mother-of-pearl) until, out of pain and suffering, it forms an object of great beauty. The offending party actually becomes a gem of great worth.



# Parable of the Costly Pearl

- **Are we formed in a similar manner, spiritually?**
- **In a similar way, spiritually, we are an irritant, a parasite due to our nature and sins (Romans 3:23-26). However, because God loves us, we are covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, and gradually, we can become a thing of beauty, clothed with the righteousness of Him who bought us (Ephesians 2:13-16). As long as the pearl—the church—remains in the oyster—the world—it has no value. In fact, the pearl has no real intrinsic worth; its value resides in the immense cost paid for it.**





# Parable of the Costly Pearl

## ■ Application of Grace?

- **II Corinthians 9:15** while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Luke 7:40-43** And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii (a denarius is equivalent to a day's wage), and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."

# Parable of the Costly Pearl

## ■ Application of Grace?

- According to Scripture, we have no righteousness, no talents, no goods, nothing that is of any value in purchasing such a priceless gift from God (**Isaiah 64:6**)
- We do not choose Christ but He selects us (**John 15:16**)

## The Pearl Of Great Price



*Matthew 13:45-46*

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a merchant seeking goodly pearls:*

*and having found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”*

# GROUP DISCUSSION

