

Understanding the New Testament Gospels

The Parable of the Pearl (Mt. 13:45-46)

- I.** The first four parables prophesy gloom—man’s point of view; the second set of three prophesy from God point of view.
 1. The Parable of the Treasure tells of the postponement of the Kingdom and change of form.
 2. Hid = 400 silent years; found = Jesus’ earthly ministry; hid again = the Jews rejection of Jesus on His terms.
 3. All seven parables are new truth (Mt. 13:34-35).
- II.** “A merchant seeks ‘beautiful’ pearls” (v. 45).
 1. Implies selection, choosing or election.
 2. The Father chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4).
 3. The Father did not choose based on merit (1 Cor. 1:26-29).
 4. The Father purchased us with His Son (Jn. 3:16).
 5. The pearl did not seek Him (Rom. 3:11).
- III.** “He found one of great value.”
 1. Single pearl.
 2. The value is to Him based on His selection and price paid.
- IV.** “He sold all that He had and purchased it.”
 1. We were bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23).
 2. We were redeemed by the high value blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
- V.** What does the pearl represent?
 1. Most likely not the church since the church does not seem to be a mystery (Mt. 16:18).
 2. The characteristics of a pearl.
 - 1) Only “gem” that has its value when whole, not facets.
 - 2) It is the product of a living creature.
 - 3) It is the product of imperfection—injury.
 - 4) It is formed slowly.
 - 5) It is formed unseen by the eye.
 - 6) It is the product from the sea (Rev. 17:6; 13:1).
 3. The pearl most likely represents the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11).