

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

By Joseph A. Edwards II

Updated 08/13/26

INTRODUCTION

To understand the teachings of Christ, we must take into consideration that God's Word is written in "another language". Until a person can understand that language, the truth of scripture will remain veiled. In this present age, only converted Elect believers (the blessed, the Elect) possess the necessary "eyes that can see" and "ears that can hear" to unlock the mysteries of God.

Isa 28: 9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (converted Elect). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (babes who draw milk) precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are SPIRIT, and they are life.

1Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a MYSTERY, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

For the Elect to have the necessary spiritual understanding of scripture, it requires their spiritual blindness to be healed by Christ. That "healing" occurs when they receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit (**Mark 8:21-25**). This event is also called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is what the Apostles received on the Day of Pentecost and what Paul received in Damascus after being blind for three days. Only with the Latter Rain will the "scales" fall from an Elect believer's eyes.

After an Elect believer is given their spiritual eyes and ears, they will be able to find and receive the truth of God's Word as it is taught by the spiritual language of Christ. In order to understand Christ's language, Paul says we must compare the spiritual words in question with how those same spiritual words are used elsewhere in scripture:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

This method of “comparing spiritual things with spiritual” is the scripturally prescribed way of unlocking the hidden teachings of God’s Word. Then, when coupled with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the truth of Christ will be revealed.

A believer who is seeking the truth of Christ will not be able to find the correct meanings of the Christ’s spirit words if they look for them out in the world. Satan (natural sun) is the god of this world and the light that comes from him is leavened (**Mat 13:33**). To find the true meanings of Christ’s spirit words, we must look to God’s Word for understanding.

MEANINGS OF THE SYMBOLS

Let’s take a close look now at the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price using the correct method of finding the truth of God’s Word.

Mat 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 key symbols used in the parable are: the Kingdom of Heaven, goodly pearls, the Pearl of Great Price and the Merchant Man.

Once we can understand these symbols, the Holy Spirit will guide us to the true message of the parable.

1). Kingdom of Heaven.

What is the Kingdom of Heaven?

The Kingdom of Heaven represents Christ and all who are “in Christ” (have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and are converted).

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Using the celestial analogy, the Kingdom of Heaven is consists of the Sun of Righteousness (Christ), the New Moon (New Covenant/Freewoman) and the stars of heaven (holy angels). The light that comes from the Sun of Righteousness is what shines upon the New Earth. The New Earth represents the new divine spirit of a converted individual.

For additional teaching on the celestial analogy, please see my paper entitled “The New Heaven and the New Earth”.

2). Goodly pearls/Pearl of Great Price

Goodly Pearls represent the truths of God which are hidden from this world. The Pearl of Great Price represents Christ who is likewise hidden from this world.

Col 2:2 ...attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

So how important is understanding the truth?

Truth is so important that no man can “come unto to the Father” or enter the New Jerusalem without it.

John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man can come unto the Father, but by me.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every individual gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Entrance into the New Jerusalem is by truth and that is why a pearl is affixed to each of the twelve gates.

Consider this verse:

Mat 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

The spirit word “dogs” represents Gentile unbelievers. The term “swine” represents all unconverted believers (babes) including the Jewish nation because they were called out from the world. When the two spirit words are combined, they represent the entirety of unconverted mankind.

In the verse above, Christ says not cast the hidden truths of God (goodly pearls/the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven) to the people of this world. Why? Because pearls are holy and should be treated as objects of great value. They should not be cast to those who cannot receive or appreciate them.

Job 28:12 “But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.

Job 28:20 “From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air (unclean spirits**).**

In the scripture below, Christ says that the pearls (hidden truth) are for those who seek them as seeking for hidden treasure:

Prov 2:1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

When presenting the pearls of Christ, they should not be presented like casting a net into the sea of mankind to see what it might catch. It is fine for the Gospel of Christ (milk of the Word/ Christ and Him crucified) to be presented in this manner, but not the hidden pearls of God.

The hidden treasures/pearls of God are reserved for the Elect after they are given the Latter Rain of the Spirit. From this baptism, an Elect person will be born as a child of God who will have a love for the truth and eyes that can see spiritually. As a child of God, the Elect person will sell all that they own so that they can have treasure in heaven.

Mat 19:21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have (carnal false beliefs of this world) and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

Only the children of God can appreciate the value of God’s hidden treasure & goodly pearls – and the ability to receive it into their hearts.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcomes (the converted Elect) will I give to eat of the hidden manna (hidden treasure/goodly pearls), and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that received it.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

3). Merchant Man.

Now that we know what the Pearl of Great Price and the Goodly pearls represent, we can more easily understand what the symbol “merchant man” represents in the parable.

In short, a merchant man in the parable represents all Elect believers just after they have received the Latter Rain of the Spirit. It is at that time that the person will be able to sell (remove) all that they have in order to purchase (receive) God’s hidden treasure and Pearl of Great price (Christ).

Peter restated this truth just after he was converted using the spirit words sun and moon.

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: **15** For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. **16** But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; **17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: **18** And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: **19** And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: **20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable Day of the Lord come: **21** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

After a person receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit, they will begin receiving their truth directly from Christ. The natural sun (Satan) and the natural moon (Old Covenant/Bondwoman) from which they used to receive their light will be darkened. Now the person will receive their light from the Sun of Righteousness (Christ).

The spirit word “merchant” can also have a negative application as shown in the scripture below:

Rev 13:16 And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: **17** And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Verse 17 is teaching about a merchant who buys and sells the false truth of this world. This merchant is an apostate believer who is being governed by the spirit of anti-Christ.

SUMMARY

Now, let’s go back to the parable and apply what we have learned above:

Mat 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 merchant man is an Elect believer who has just received the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, the believer was born as a child of God who has a love for the truth and eyes that can see spiritually. As a new creation of God, the Elect person will seek out goodly pearls (hidden treasure of God). When he finds one pearl of great value, he sells (removes) all that he has (truth of this world) so that he can purchase (receive) this one special pearl (Christ/Truth).