

I. The Parable of the Great Pearl

1. The kingdom of heaven is likened to a merchant man seeking goodly pearls ([Mt. 13:45](#)).
 - a. merchant (*emporos* G1713 noun) ‘one who boards a ship as passenger’, then, esp. **one who travels by ship for business reasons**, **merchant**...denotes *wholesale dealer* in contrast to *κάπηλος* ‘retailer’ (Arndt, William, et al. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, 3rd ed., University of Chicago Press, 2000, p. 325).
 - b. seeking (*zeteo* G2212 verb, present) *to seek in order to find* (Thayer, Joseph Henry. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti, Harper & Brothers., 1889, p. 272).
 - c. goodly (*kalos* G2570 adjective) equivalent to *beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable*” (Thayer 322).
 - d. pearls (*margarites* G3135 noun) we obtain the English name “Margaret” from this Greek word.
2. A single pearl of great price was found and the merchant man sold all that he had to obtain it ([Mt. 13:46](#)).
 - a. of great price (*polytimos* G4186 adjective) lit., “of great value” (Vine, W. E., et al. Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, vol. 2, T. Nelson, 1996, p. 132).

II. The Explanation

1. In contrast to the parable of the hidden treasure, which was discovered by chance, this merchant was **seeking** valuable pearls.
 - a. God wants us to seek after Him ([Ac. 17:22-28](#)).
 - b. God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him ([Heb. 11:6](#)).
2. **One** pearl of great price was found and was valuable enough for the merchant to sell all that he had to obtain it.
 - a. Christ only has **one** kingdom ([Mt. 16:18-19](#)).
 - b. Christ only has **one** body ([Eph. 4:4](#)).
 - c. Christ only has **one** bride ([Eph. 5:22-32](#); [2 Cor. 11:2-3](#); [Rm. 7:4](#)).
 - d. Christ only has **one** family ([1 Tim. 3:15](#)).
 - e. Christ only has **one** flock ([Jn. 10:16](#)).

- f. Christ only has **one** temple of which He is the Chief Cornerstone ([Eph. 2:19-22](#); [1 Cor. 3:16-17](#); [2 Cor. 6:16](#)).
- g. Christ only has **one** church as all of these figures are representations of the church.

III. The Application

- 1. We must be searching for the things of God diligently ([Pr. 2:1-6](#)).
 - a. This means giving diligence to the Word of God ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)).
 - b. This means careful meditation of the Word of God ([1 Tim. 4:15](#)).
- 2. When we find truth we must buy it at all costs and not sell it ([Pr. 23:23](#)).
 - a. If we turn from the truth all we are left with is lies ([2 Th. 2:10-12](#)).
 - b. Sometimes people turn loose of the truth ([2 Tim. 4:10](#); [Col. 4:14](#); [Phm. 24](#)).
- 3. If we are not willing to give up anything that stands in our way of Heaven then we will never obtain it ([Lk. 14:33](#)).
 - a. Remember, your soul is your most valuable possession ([Mt. 16:26](#)).
 - b. Remember, you can take nothing material with you ([1 Tim. 6:7](#)).
 - c. Therefore, we should use what God has entrusted us with properly to obtain the true riches ([Lk. 16:10-13](#)).