

Case of the Valuable Pearl

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I. Introduction. Text: Matthew 13:45.

II. The parable of the pearl of great price.

A. The grace of God can never be presented as being able to be purchased by anyone.

B. The typical Jew did not value pearls greatly but the Galilean Jews understood the value of pearls from the Gentiles.

C. Men must try to work out international problems, but the Word teaches that the world does not know the secret and Israel must come unto its own.

D. The merchant who gives all that he has is comparable to Jesus giving all that He has in order to obtain the church—the pearl is the church.

1. The irritated oyster produces the pearl.

2. The Lord gave all that He had.

3. God's problem is how He can reach us. The solution is that He gave all He had by taking our place—He became all that we are. (II Corinthians 5:21)

4. Christianity is God reaching in and healing human hearts by giving His all.

E. The secret of peace lies in Israel, which is represented by the field.

F. Because of the treasure, the Lord bought the world. (Isaiah)

G. The pearl manifests the greatness of God now, but it is ultimately meant for heaven.

1. The church is being prepared for an unblemished presentation. (Ephesians 2)

2. In the process of difficult relationships, the Lord is changing the thing that causes the hurt and turning it into a thing of beauty.

Application questions:

1. Why is it difficult to ascribe the pearl to the grace of God?

2. How does the merchant symbolize the great solution to the human problem? Explain.

3. What future hope does the church have to look for that was manifested in the beauty of the pearl?
