

Matthew 13: 45 & 46; “The Cultivation of the Pearl”, Session # 4 on the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 5th, 2023, in the Adult Sunday School.

Matthew 13: 45 & 46 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

I said to you last week that we have much to learn about the infinite value of the Pearl of Great Price. I am speaking of the infinite value of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Review –

1st – How are Pearls Made and Why are they so Greatly Sought After?

In the Birth of a Pearl –

Oysters make pearls in response to an irritant, such as a grain of sand or another object. When any irritant makes its way between the mollusk’s shell and mantle, the creature produces nacre, a protective coating that helps reduce irritation. Nacre is also referred to as mother-of-pearl; it’s made of microscopic crystals of calcium carbonate, and it also lines the interior of a mollusk’s shell.

Layers of nacre coat the irritant, eventually forming an iridescent gem (the pearl).

2. Having this Information on a Natural Earthly Pearl, then I gave you Biblical Information as to why the Value of Christ is so very Great.

A. Christ from All Eternity, before the world was created, was God the Son.

John 1: 1-4 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

Since He was God the Son, with God the Father, in the beginning, and all things were made through Him, and in Him was the Essential life of God; this life was the light of men. In other words, all truth and grace are found in Him and they come from Him. This makes Christ to be of Infinite Value to all men.

John 1: 14 – “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

Since Christ was no created being before His Incarnation, and He was, and is, the only-begotten of the Father, this makes His value as a Divine Person of the Godhead, taking on flesh in His Incarnation in order to save a people for Himself and the Father infinitely great.

John 1: 18 – “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

Christ is of infinite value to all men because He has declared God to us.

B. One of the main Reasons that Christ became a Man was in order to deal with our sin.

Observation: In relation to our Parable as we think of Christ’s becoming Man, He came because the “irritant” of Man’s Sin was displeasing to the Righteous and Pure Being of the Triune God. Something had to be done about it. And so Christ came to suffer, bleed, and die on the cross, so that we who so sinful, and under God’s wrath, could receive the manifold grace of God in salvation which would cover our sins.

John 6: 38 – “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me, I should lose nothing.”

Today's Study – The Cultivation of the Pearl.

C. The “Farmer” who cultivated Christ as this Pearl was the Father.

John 1: 16 – “And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.” Or grace upon grace as it says in the New American Standard translation.

There is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form. Everyone believing in Jesus and receiving His grace come to know that in Him there is a fullness of righteousness, holiness, truth, and wisdom, to be saved and to live the Christian life to the glory of God. There is grace given by Him to us to be gracious people; grace for grace. And there is grace upon grace imparted each and every moment of our lives by the Spirit of God so that we grow in respect to our faith and our obedience and our usefulness to Him.

John 3: 16-18 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

The cultivation of the Pearl, our Lord Jesus Christ, by the Father began by His sending His Son into this fallen world of sinners, out of love to them, that they might be saved. He sent Him to deal with the great irritation of sin in the nature and practice of every man, so that they might be saved .

D. Christ's perfect obedience to God's law, and His sufferings on our behalf is like the formation of a Pearl which is formed by layers of Nacre.

In the formation of this Pearl, this Perfect Person Jesus Christ, does a perfect work of obedience and a complete work of sufferings on the cross to pay our debt of sin which we owed to God. He did this so that we could find both justifying and sanctifying grace, in finding Him. His finished work of Redemption was all accomplished during the time of His earthly ministry. In this way, as the God-Man He became the Pearl of great price.

Romans 5: 18-21 – “Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.” “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.” “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound.” “But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

So, it was through Adam's sinful offense in the garden of Eden, that judgment came upon all men, resulting in condemnation. And even so, it was through one Man's righteous act that the free gift of salvation comes to all men who believe the gospel. Christ's righteous act means more than his giving Himself to die on the cross. It means His full and entire obedience to God's holy law during His whole earthly ministry. This led Him on to the cross. He became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross it says in Philippians 2: 8. This righteous act, seen as a total unit in the sight of God, His giving Himself to obey God's law at every point, and then laying down His life for sinners at the cross, resulted in God's being able to justify giving eternal life to everyone who would believe in Him; all of God's elect people.