



God's Kingdom - A Pearl of Great Price

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46).

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"Have ye understood all these

things?" (Matthew 13:51).

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:45-46).

Jesus taught a lot about the Kingdom of God so as to lay a firm foundation for all to identify it and fulfil the requirements for making it. In this parable He likened the kingdom of heaven to a merchant man who discovered a pearl of great price and sold all that he had to acquire it. When viewed in the light of His statement in Mark 8:36-37 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"; it becomes obvious that the Kingdom of God is worth far above every other thing that anyone can possess.

Faced with the ever present tantalising offers from the world, many are not prudent enough to identify the value of what appears to them a remote kingdom. Some are like Esau of whom the Bible warns us of "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; **16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.** **17** For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:15-17). For Esau, the temptations of the present need was so overpowering that it dampened his senses of the value of future prospects and inheritance.

In this parable we note that:

- 1) There may have been many merchants seeking goodly pearls.
- 2) Some may have seen what they were looking for but did not recognise their value, hence lost the benefits of possession.

3) Had the original owner recognised the value of it, s/he would most probably not have sold it.

4) One merchant recognised the value of the pearl, and paid the necessary price to buy it. Although salvation is free because Jesus paid a costly price for it, there is still a price to pay for making heaven "So likewise, whosoever **he** be of you **that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple**" (Luke 14:33).

5) It is spiritual recognition that enables anyone to value the kingdom of God to the point of forsaking all for it.

Paul's prayer for Ephesian believers is very pertinent for us to recognise, value and make heaven - "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, **16** Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; **17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: **18** The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, **19** And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:15-23).