

The Kingdom of God is Like a Pearl

Claude Lainey – November 9, 2025

The Great Exchange

Matthew 13:44–46 (NIV) “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Two main topics or focuses of these two parables:

First, it focuses on the action and the effort. What someone is willing to do, to possess this amazing thing, in this case, the Treasure and Pearl.

- **It is a joyful trade-off; not an obligation. There is no negotiation, no hesitation, no confusion!**
- **It is like an amazing deal someone finds.**

Second, it focuses on the object of that pursuit! “This is worth the trade-off.”

- **The first man sees and understands the value of this treasure!**
- **The merchant knows the value of the pearl!**

There are two interpretations for this text, however, scholars are divided on the meaning of these two parables but the two interpretations are linked.

1. God’s people are His treasure and His pearl of great value. We are sought after and valued!

Romans 5:8 (NLT) But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- **God does all the legwork to get to us.**
- **God came after us, He sought us.**
- **Examples: The lost sheep, the lost coin, the prodigal son!**
- **God sells off and trades off His possessions because of His view of our worth to Him!**

John 3:16–17 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- **God values me, He values us; to the cost of giving Himself for us as a ransom for our sin.**
- **He experienced rejection, was wrongly accused, mocked, lied about, murdered, killed like a criminal on a cross.**

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV) For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

- **What a beautiful Gospel! Good News!**

Deuteronomy 7:6 (NLT) For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure.

Malachi 3:17 (NIV) “They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession.”

Psalms 135:4 (NIV) “For the Lord has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession.”

Philippians 2:6–8 Jesus “emptied Himself,” taking the form of a servant, obedient to death.

2 Corinthians 8:9 “Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor.”

Ephesians 5:25–27 “Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

Acts 20:28 (NIV) “Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

Titus 2:14 (NIV) “[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own.”

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession...”

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NIV) “You are not your own; you were bought at a price.”

(1) This is how God values us.

(2) He was willing to give up everything because he values us.

(3) I need to see this amazing love.

(4) I need to receive this amazing love.

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV) The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

- **We see Him wanting us, desiring us, reaching out to us, giving up His own life for ours!**

2. When we see Jesus as our treasure and pearl, it becomes our response to His amazing love and pursuit for us!

When we finally grasp how much Jesus values us, that we were His treasure first, something happens inside us. Our hearts begin to respond. Our pursuit of Him becomes the natural overflow of realizing that He first pursued us.

i. Love awakens love

1 John 4:19 says, “We love because He first loved us.”

- **When we see His sacrificial love, our response is not duty but devotion.**
- **It is not about religion anymore, it’s about devotion.**
- **Religion says ‘I have to’, devotion says ‘I want to.’**
- **Religion keeps score, devotion pours out perfume on His feet, whatever the cost!**

ii. It is not by works!

Matthew 5:3 (NIV) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- **When we see the value of Jesus, the blessings that follow, it is worth putting him first!**
- **It refers to those who are spiritually bankrupt, will inherit the kingdom!**

Mark 10:15 (NIV) I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

iii. The trade-off becomes joy, not sacrifice

Matthew 13:45 and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

- **Paul said**, “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” **Philippians 3:8**
- **When I see His value, it causes me to sell off or to trade my life for Him!**
- **It is to realize the trade-off... what a deal ... my life for His!**
- **I choose to carry my cross daily to see Him alive in me!**

Romans 12:1 (NIV) “In view of God’s mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices...”

- **When I see Jesus as the pearl of great price and as my treasure, I am not losing anything!**
- **It is all about gain! It is not a fair trade!**
 - **When I look at what this world has to offer, it is all temporary. Like a great meal, things, pleasure, substances I may take, it is all temporary.**
- **Everything the world offers expires.**

Ecclesiastes 2:10–11 (NLT) Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labours. ¹¹But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

Proverbs 23:4–5 (NLT) Don’t wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to know when to quit. ⁵In the blink of an eye wealth disappears, for it will sprout wings and fly away like an eagle.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV) “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

- **When I consider the short time on earth.**

Isaiah 40:6–8 (NLT) A voice said, “Shout!” I asked, “What should I shout?” “Shout that people are like the grass. Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field. ⁷The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the Lord. And so it is with people.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.”

- **When I consider how miserable I am without Him. How selfish and self-centred, broken and empty.**

Romans 7:18 (NLT) And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

iv. How do I respond to this amazing love and trade off? It is by having a hunger and a desperation for Him!

Psalms 34:8 (NIV) “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”

- (1) I have a Father and a family**
- (2) I am forgiven**
- (3) I am in peace and at peace**

- (4) I can experience true freedom from sin**
- (5) I have purpose**
- (6) I am provided for**
- (7) I am in a relationship with God, I can talk to Him**
- (8) I have a future home**
- (9) I am not alone**
- (10) I am empowered to do life God's way**

Psalm 73:25–26 (NIV) “Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Conclusion

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”