

**Parables: The Pearl of Great Price**  
**To Remember: God's kingdom is worth all that we have**

**How important is Jesus to You?**

**Is He very important? Is He like a hobby?**

**Somebody you think about maybe once a week, maybe  
just when you come to church?**

**What would you give up for Jesus?**

**What would you give up to know that you were part of  
His kingdom?**

**Because the more important you find Jesus, the more  
you'd be prepared to give up.**

**In the Bible the other day, I read a parable...a story that Jesus told...about a merchant...a seller a person who buys and sells things.**

**And the reason that he bought and sold things was so that he could make a profit.**

**In other words, he could buy something cheap and then sell it for more money than they paid for it.**

**Now many times a merchant would buy and sell only ONE thing. This was he could become an expert in that ONE item.**

**He would learn everything about that one item.**

**The merchant in the parable that I read was an expert in PEARLS.**

**He knew the difference between a good pearl and a bad pearl.**

**He knew which pearl was worth a lot of money and which pearl was not.**

**Does anyone know where pearls grow? They grow inside of oysters...way down deep in the sea.**

**Sometimes when you crack an oyster open...you'll find a pearl.**

**Now oysters come in all sizes...sometimes they are rather small and sometimes they can be rather large.**

**They can be different quality as well.**

**What a good merchant looks for is a pearl that is really, really round and perfect in quality.**

**One day...the merchant was out searching...and he found the largest, most perfect pearl that he had ever seen.**

**It was AMAZING! He couldn't believe his eyes.**

**This pearl was perfect...like none other his eyes had ever seen.**

**His search was now over...he no longer had to keep searching.**

**He could buy this piece of land...where the pearl lay...and he could sell it and live happily ever after with the money that he would make off of this one perfect pearl.**

**The only problem was...that he would have to sell EVERYTHING that he had in order to purchase this piece of land where the pearl laid.**

**But guess what...he didn't hesitate for a moment.**

**The man knew that this one thing was more valuable than all of the other things that he possessed...all put together.**

**So guess what? The man sold EVERYTHING that he had and he purchased this one piece of land...and the one pearl that laid there.**

**He sold his house, he sold his horse, he sold all of his expensive jewelry, he sold his expensive clothing...and he bought the pearl**

**Now here is what the Parable says in the Bible:**

**Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

**Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.**

**Why is Jesus telling this Parable?**

**Because Jesus is saying HE is the pearl of great price...and we are like the merchant who is looking for the one thing that is better than all other things in life.**

**Jesus isn't telling us to go out and look for pearls, He's telling us that when we find the one thing that is better than all other things...THE ONE THING that will get us into heaven, that will have our sins forgiven, that will give us a good relationship with God... and that's Jesus.**

**When we find Jesus, He says we should be prepared to give up all things because of it.**

**Jesus is of more value than everything else.**

**Listen to what Paul says...Now I think that all things are worth NOTHING compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.**

**Because of Christ I lost all things and now I know they are all worthless trash. All I want now is Christ.**

**And God is saying to us you shouldn't mind giving up the best things that you have.**

**Because what you are going to receive in return is going to be eternal life in heaven with God.**

**Is there anything better than that? Is there anything more important that you want to hang onto in life?**

**Be careful because hanging on to things can stop us seeing what it is that God wants us to do**

**The Bible says that the merchant looked and looked for the one thing that he wanted and  
And when he found it, he didn't have to look anymore.**

**The Bible reminds us that we should seek and then we will find and that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**

**THE PEARL**  
**Of Great Price**

