

Sunday October 23rd, 2005

Matthew 13 Part 10
The Parable of the Pearl

1). Mt 13:45 *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

a). The parable of the Pearl continues the redemptive process that we saw last week in the Parable of the Treasure.

b). We will remember that in that parable that the Man is the Lord Jesus Christ, the field is the world and the treasure is Israel

c). We saw that the Man gave all He had to purchase the field in which the treasure was hidden and that the purchase of the field is a picture of the redemption of the inheritance

i/ The plagues in Exodus

ii/ Boaz redeeming the inheritance at the gate of the city

iii/ The seven year tribulation – Daniel's 70th week – the time of Jacob's trouble

d). We also saw that the man selling all he had was a reference to Christ's finished work on the cross of Calvary and that the paying of the price and the redemption of the inheritance are separated by some 2000years

e). Visual of the chronology – the Cross / rapture / JSOC (The Bride revealed) / Tribulation (Redemption) / Marriage Supper (Becomes the Wife)

2). Now in our parable today we see the focus continuing to be the 'kingdom of heaven' – within our context the proclamation and offer of the kingdom to the church. The Merchant and the Man from the previous parables would be one and the same – the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

a). The subject of that being purchased here is 'a pearl of great price' rather than the field of the previous parable. But following on from the previous parable the purchase of the field, the redemption of the inheritance remains in view – the sale of all he had is the same in both parables resulting in the purchase of the field and the pearl.

b). Parables – 'parabole'

c). Remember - Mt 13:35b *"I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

d). Mt 13:9 *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

e). And within the context of the chronology of events the entity represented by the pearl, which is purchased along with the field, can only be a reference to the church. But not the church in a general sense, but that group identified at the Judgment Seat to be the Bride who at the conclusion of the redemption of the inheritance become the Lamb's wife.

f). Ru 4:9 ¶ *And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."*

g). Re 19:1 ¶ *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 ¶ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."*

h). We can also draw on indirect evidence that the pearl is the bride as we note that oysters from which pearls come are taken from the sea. And we will remember that the sea is often representative of the Gentile nations. And it is from this group, the Gentiles, that the majority of the church would be taken in order to receive the kingdom of heaven rejected by Israel.

Ac 15:14 *"Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. He is harvesting oysters if you will.*

i). Although there may be many oysters, naturally occurring pearls are rare, found in perhaps one of every 10,000. A perfectly spherical pearl is extremely rare, making it prized above all.

j). In the natural the pearl's size and shape are determined by such variables as temperature and the chemistry of the water as well as the health of the mollusk – (Teach this)

k). And the formation of the pearl begins, not with a grain of sand, but with a trapped particle of food. – (And this)

l). The pearl's growth is an ongoing process and is only revealed through the death of the oyster.

m). The luster that a pearl possesses results from the reflection of light not only off the surface, but also off the concentric inner layers. It shines from the inside out.

n). You might also be interested to know that natural pearls have minor imperfections and irregularities. But remain of great price.

3). Although this information is anecdotal rather than scriptural. We do see a scriptural process that would fit our natural picture of the pearl and would draw our chronology, the Cross / rapture / Redemption / Marriage together.

4). To begin at the beginning - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

a). God in 3 parts / man in 3 parts

b). God's stated purpose for the creation of man – teach this.

c). Ge 2:8 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.*

d). However, in order to fulfill God's purpose for his creation the man needed a helper, 'comparable to him' to help him in the process of dominion.

e). Ge 2:21 ¶ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

f). And here God sets in place a Divinely perfect law for the governance of the earth. It must be a man and a woman in a marriage relationship. Such a pattern is unalterable, unchangeable and must be fulfilled.

5). Now we know that Adam and the Woman never fulfilled God's purpose for them because of sin, thereby forfeiting the inheritance God had given them – the earth and all that is in it.

- a). The man's spirit died
- b). His soul was corrupted
- c). His body began to decay

6). As we know this is not the end of the story - *Ro 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

7). Just as we find Adam giving himself to sin in the hope of his wife's redemption so we find Christ - *2Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Becoming sin for us in the certainty of purchasing eternal redemption for all who would believe in Him and for the bride from within that group that He would call to Himself - *Song 4:7 You are all fair, my love, And there is no spot in you.*

8). Jesus speaks His final words on the cross - *Joh 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

- a). *Re 13:8b.....the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*
- b). *1Pe 1:20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*
- c). *Heb 9:26b....but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

9). That which was already accomplished before the foundation of the world was now present in its completed state within the boundaries of time. The second Man, the Last Adam had paid the price to be able to redeem that lost in the Garden. The One promised in Genesis – 'The seed of the woman' – had come.

a). As a result eternal separation from God because of sin would be done away with for all who would believe in Him – Ac 16:31 *So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."*

Eph 2:1 ¶ *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

this is salvation by grace through faith, this is the salvation of the spirit, that which is born of the spirit is spirit, this is being born from above, the new birth, being born again

b). Not only that, but, because of this finished work He is the One found worthy to redeem the inheritance - Re 5:1 ¶ *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 ¶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

10). Even though ‘it is finished’ and the One worthy to redeem is known we do not see the events of Revelation 5, that we have just read, taking place immediately after the resurrection of Christ. There are events that must take place between this finished work and the redemption of the inheritance and the purchase of the Pearl.

a). That which was typified in Adam must be fulfilled in Christ.

b). That which God had set in place in the beginning must be completed at the end - Ge 2:8 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." - let them have dominion.*

c). Ge 2:21 ¶ *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.*

11). In God's perfect plan for rulership, after the pattern He had set in Genesis, the One found worthy could not rule without a wife at His side. And at the completion of the 'finished work' there is no wife for the Son. And just as in Genesis God would have to make, literally build, His wife from part of His body. So the same must be true in respect of Christ.

a). Joh 19:34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

b). The blood here is not the blood of eternal salvation, that is the blood shed in association with His death. This blood comes after death and points to the present High Priestly ministry of Christ on behalf of the saved in the Heavenly Tabernacle. This present work deals with the second part of man's being – the salvation of the soul.

c). Eph 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

d). 1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

e). His High Priestly ministry because the pearl has imperfections.

f). Heb 4:15 *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

g). Le 17:11 *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

12). The finished work on the cross creates the 'one new man', the body of Christ and the opening of His side makes possible the building of the Bride, taken from that body, the forming of the pearl of great price.

a). It is a process that lasts 2000 years – two days

b). It is a process seen in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit to the church, to search out a Bride for the Son – typified for us in the search for a bride for Isaac in Genesis 24 - Ge 24:4 *"but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."*

Ge 24:8 *"And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; - Orpah – ‘anyone putting his hand to the plow and looking back is not fit for the kingdom’*

c). And the search is inextricably linked to finding those who would draw deeply from the well of water, who would be built on the rock of the revelation that He is ‘the Christ, the Son of the living God’

d). Those who would answer in the affirmative to the question – Ge 24:58b *"Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."*

e). Who would respond as Ruth - Ru 1:16 *But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.*

d). It was on the 6th day that Adam and the woman were created to rule and it will be at the end of the 6th day from Adam, at the end of 6000 years that the last Adam and His wife will ascend the throne and God’s stated purpose we be completed.

13). The pearl is of great price because it is the blood of God that has made the formation of the pearl possible. This is not the blood of animals or the blood of man, but the blood, the life force of God Himself – ‘the life is in the blood’

1Pe 1:18 *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

1Co 6:20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

a). The Pearl is of great price because she will have led a life of faithful obedience to the word of Christ.

b). She will have made the journey from the land of her birth to the land of her calling.

c). She will have worked from morning to night in the field and beaten out the grain.

d). She will have prepared herself by washing herself, anointing herself and will have put on her garment

e). She will have overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil

f). She will have run the race according to the rules

h). She will have looked from this world unto Jesus

i). She will have patiently endured trial and tribulation and persecution

- j). She will have suffered with Christ to be a coheir with Christ
- k). She will have laid down her life now so that she would find it then
- l). Her works will have been tested by fire at the Judgment Seat and will have remained
- m). She will have achieved the goal of her faith – the salvation of her soul – that which scripture calls ‘So great a salvation’ that which angels desire to look into.

14). For two thousand years God has been producing this pearl and at the conclusion of the 7 years of the Tribulation when the inheritance is redeemed, not only will the field have been purchased containing the treasure, but the Pearl – in the antitype of Boaz and Ruth – will become the wife of the Lamb.

a). He gave all He had at His first coming to purchase the Pearl yet future because - Eph 1:4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

b). Isa 46:10 *Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

15). Behold the radiant, lustrous Pearl

- a). Those found worthy
- b). Those achieving the salvation of their soul
- c). Those who will have made their wedding garment
- d). Those who will have had ears to hear
- e). Those producing the fruit of the kingdom

Pr 11:30 ¶ *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.*

- Da 12:3 *Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

Pr 4:18 *But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.*

Mt 13:43 *"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*