

Study Questions
Matthew 13 Parables – Part Nine
The Parable of the Pearl
Sunday February 21st 2010

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). This is the second of 3 parables that the Lord gives upon His return into the house. What group of people remains the focus of these 3 parables?

b). What event has already taken place that separates these 3 parables from the previous 4?

c). What can we conclude then about the proclamation and offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens at this point in time?

d). So how are these events related to the proclamation and offer of the Kingdom of the Heavens?

2). Who is the merchant in our parable?

a). What is he seeking?

b). How is this different from the Parable of the Treasure?

c). Who does the Pearl symbolize?

d). How would we know?

3). The Parable of the Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl deal with two facets of the purpose for man's salvation.

a). What facet is dealt with in the Parable of the Treasure?

b). What facet is dealt with in the Parable of the Pearl?

c). How is the nation of Israel connected to these 2 facets?

d). What other Books in the Bible could we go to in order to get a complete picture of what is taking place here?

4). Mt 22:1 ¶ *And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:*
2 *"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his*
3 *son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and*
4 *they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell*
5 *those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle*
6 *are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'*" 5 *"But they made light*
7 *of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the*
8 *rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the*
9 *king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those*
10 *murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding*
11 *is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the*

highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 "So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

- a). What is the stated subject of this parable?
- b). So what timeframe does this parable cover?
- c). What period of time would be covered by v2 – 3?
- d). What books of the Bible would we associate with this time?
- e). What is taking place in v4?
- f). What time would be covered by this?
- g). What would the phrase ‘other servants’ tell us?
- h). Where would we go in scripture to see that related to this time?
- g). What brings this time to an end that we see in v5-6?
- h). What is v7 a reference to?
- i). What is taking place in v8-9?
- j). Who would ‘his servants’ be?

- k). Where would we go in scripture to see that related to this time?
 - l). What period of time is encompassed in v10?
 - m). What is being taught in v11-14?
 - n). Do we know anything about the man without a wedding garment being speechless?
 - o). How does this parable give further help in our understanding of the Parable of the Treasure and the Pearl?
- 5). What connection, if any, does Christ's finished work at Calvary have with regards to the purchase of the field and the pearl?
- a). What is the process by which the Pearl is purchased?
 - b). How would our anecdotal information about pearls help in our understanding of this?
 - c). Can you think of anything we have studied previously that would help describe what this looks like for us?