

# The Pearl

## The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

Matthew 13

<sup>44</sup>“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.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Do you know what worship is? This question is one that needs answered more than any other, especially in these last days. It is the greatest cause and effect for either judgment or reward in the life of all men. The men mentioned above in the parable of the “pearl of great price” seemed to understand clearly what worship is. In fact they sold all they had for the object of their desire, with joy, and expectation. What about you friend? What is it that you are selling everything for now? Some of you will say, I’m not selling anything, but I want to urge you to look again, and ask yourself the questions; What is worship?...and..What is the object of my worship? Everyone is worshiping something at this very moment.

If we take an honest look at worship, and call it what it is, we see that worship is a complete and utter losing of one’s self in the object of one’s worship. We are willing to sell anything, make any necessary sacrifice, and protect with our very lives the objects of our worship. We as the worshippers, not only pursue the object of worship diligently, but we prioritize the rest of our lives around it, and seek to spend every waking moment doing so, because the object of our worship seems worthy to us to do so. For some, self is the object of worship, for others, it is money, success, sex, work, sinfulness, increase, philosophy, science, even good things like bible study, ministry, ministers, revivals, miracles and movements. All of these objects of our worship, according to the Word of God, is worship misplaced, and sinful rebellion.(Hosea 6). This misplaced worship is the very reason that the wrath of God has come upon nations, and men from every tribe and tongue, and at the end of God’s patience, on the day of the Lord, it will no longer be a mystery to any of us that our worship was misplaced.

The Word of God is clear that one day every knee will bow, and every tongue confess Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Do you know what this means? It means that at some point every single man, woman, and child, from every single race, tribe, and tongue will prostrate themselves before the One who sits on the throne, and declare Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world. Some will do this against their own will, too late, and to their demise, whose lives have been spent on worship of other “gods.” What about you friends? Take a moment to examine yourself, and hold no pre-packaged idea that you are a true worshipper in both “spirit and truth”. Weigh your fruits for a moment, and look at your life. Do it now, because you can be sure that Christ will later, and it is better to judge yourself and repent, than stand before a Living God, and try to make a case for yourself! Don’t be hasty in making a judgment yet, but carefully

weigh whether or not you have bowed the knee before a resurrected Savior, or is there another object of your worship?

Can any of us add a single day to our lives? Can we number the stars in the sky, or count the sands of the sea at the bottom of the ocean. What about the very bodies we dwell in. Have you considered the inner workings of your own body? Can you count the nerve endings in your eye; or name all of the molecules swimming in your digestive system? So many of us trust in our own experiences, and yet don't even know the most basic functions of the body! We can quote the most famous of philosophers, and reap wisdom from the greatest thinkers of this day, and study the great men and women of God from the past, and seek the works of their day and age and yet, none of us knows what the day will bring that will change the entire course of our lives.

Listen to this well known poem:

### *Invictus*

*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul  
In the fell clutch of circumstances  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of change  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.  
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the year  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.  
It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.*

### *William Ernest Henley*

What are your thoughts on that poem? Maybe this poem struck a cord in you, and you were encouraged by it. Some of you may sense the arrogance of the writer, or maybe you were even sickened by the thought of living with that mindset. Let me ask you, do you live as if you are the "master" of your fate, or the "captain" of your soul? Is your head bloody, but unbowed? I want to ask you again, what is your worship? What is the object of your worship? Does your life agree with your thinking? If not friend, I want to offer you some truth, and give you the opportunity to change that. Later I will tell you another poem, but for now some thoughts...

Do you long for revival? If so, where does revival begin? First we must understand what revival means. Revival means to "live again", and this implies that something was alive in the first place. Something that is dead cannot be revived, it is too late, and too far gone. But something dying can be revived. Is your faith dead, dying, or was it ever alive in the first place? Well what is the object of your faith, and worship? Faith is only as

good as the object of your faith, and worship is only as good as the value of that which you worship. If you believe in or are selling all you have for anything less than a Living God, in whose hands it is a terrible thing to fall into, friends your faith is dead or dying. Those men who bought the pearl had faith that it was valuable, and worthy to sell everything for. Don't you know that pearl was a representation of Christ. Revival doesn't start as an act of human will, nor by might, or strength or even boldness, but by worship, and the object in which you worship.

In the book of Revelation, John saw the resurrected Christ, and fell as a dead man at his feet. Why? Isn't this the same John that lay on the breast of the Lord at the last supper? Didn't he know who was standing before him, or had he forgotten? Paul saw Christ and it blinded him and changed the course of his life forever. He traded everything he had worked for in his religion for the Glory of the resurrected Christ. Men saw Christ after the resurrection and ascending to heaven, and it changed the course of their lives forever. They gave up everything from the wealthiest, to the poorest, and bought the pearl of great price. Revival always takes place after the Glory of Christ is seen. If you are praying for revival good... and if you are praying for the Glory of Christ on earth good... but what is the object of your worship? Is it revival? The miracles of Christ? The repentance of men? If you want to see what the reformers and revivalists saw, do what the reformers and revivalists did. Don't worship the reeds in the wind, worship the wind that makes the reeds bend!!! Friends, revival starts when you ask Christ to reveal Himself to you, and then you seek HIM!!! His Glory produces revival, repentance, and the miraculous. But you will not see it until your worship is properly placed in that which is worthy. Why are we commanded not to worship stars, yet aren't they a miracle of the very God who created them. Even the stars bow to His glory, and the rocks cry out, yet we men always seek out the results of the Creator instead of Him who creates the results!!! He doesn't need us to perform religious rights to produce revival anymore than He needs a prophet to prophesy, He can use an ass to rebuke, and a rock to draw forth water!!!

This same Christ created angels that turned away from Him, and hell for them, yet we shake and tremble at the demonic, and stand apathetic at the voice of the Creator!!! These same wicked angels tremble at the knowledge of the Lord! Don't you know that you should fear standing in the Glory of the Resurrected Christ much more than hell... because it is that Glory that will either send you there, or save you. It is the Mercy and Grace of Christ along with His Glory that relents. No demon commits a single act without first being granted permission from Christ almighty. Even in their wickedness they serve the Glory of His Holiness and wrath for sin! With a single word from His mouth they will all be struck down, or don't you know this! Friends some of you fear the demonic, and shake and tremble when you see it, and fear the place they will be sent, but Christ in His Grace beckons and you still think twice about obeying. Oh this faithless generation!! Don't you know that the Spirit of Christ will not contend with man forever. Don't you know that we are granted one life, and then the judgment of Christ will come swiftly. For some it will be a surprise, as they are pressed to the floor by the Glory of Christ, and forced to cry out to Him, ... "You are indeed Lord and Christ, and worthy to stand in judgment of me!". It is better to repent than to perish, but you will serve the glory of Christ regardless. Listen to what the righteous Job said when the Lord gave him a small piece of understanding.. Job 42:5-6 "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." It was only after

this “revelation” that Job was revived, tested, tried and found worthy, not on his own merit, but his worship.

The verses found in scripture are too numerous to count of first being humbled, and returning to the object of worship that is worthy. Isn't that after all why we are refined and tested? Does the Lord seek sacrifice, or worship friends? If you correctly answered worship... don't wait... bow the knee now to the One who is Worthy of worship. Don't waste any more time worshipping the whirlwinds, and the earthquakes that are all results of the coming judgment, or the miracles present when the Glory of Christ moves, but worship Him who has overcome, who is worthy, to open the book of Life, and who alone bears the Glory of abundant, abiding fruit. Do you want to see revival, and the Glory of Christ. Revival starts by coming into the presence of a resurrected Christ, and revival starts with you. Revival is a small spark that sets the forest ablaze. Come into the presence of the risen Christ and you will not leave the same!!!

Here is the other poem I promised...

### ***MY CAPTAIN***

***Out of the light that dazzles me,  
Bright as the sun from pole to pole  
I thank the God I know to be  
For Christ the conqueror of my soul.***

***Since His the sway of circumstance,  
I would not wince nor cry aloud,  
Under that rule which men call chance  
My head with joy is humbly bowed.***

***Beyond this place of sin and tears  
That life with Him! And His the aid,  
Despite the menace of the years,  
Keeps, and shall keep me, unafraid.***

***I have no fear, though strait the gate,  
He cleared from punishment the scroll.  
Christ is the Master of my fate,  
Christ is the Captain of my soul.***

### ***Dorothea Day***

This friend is a heart that has bowed the knee, and very different from the other. I pray that the eyes of your hearts might be enlightened, that you may know the surpassing greatness of the grace and Glory of the resurrected Christ!!!!