

## The Treasure Hunter & The Merchant

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Children's Min Vol Opp. *Ladies Summer series*. Fresh Hope/Mental Health.
- B. Slide5,6 Jessica Cernetic: Moms on a Mission.
- C. Slide7 Antioch Bible College: me
- D. Slide8 This Wed Night... *Galatians, the gospel of xaris/Grace* (17 weeks back to back, 6 ch. + 9 fruit)

### II. Slide9 Intro: The Treasure Hunter & The Merchant

#### A. These next 2 Parables are Similar:

1. They are very Short. Jesus paints them w/only a few strokes of His verbal brush.
2. He was speaking to *men of sight*, but now moves (indoors) to the *men of faith*.
  - a) Now to encourage & assure *the men of faith* so they will be strengthened, heartened, confident & equipped *for all their service*. (partially, G.Campbell Morgan)
3. These twin parables teach the *same general lesson*, namely, the incomparable worth & the ultimate triumph of *the Kingdom of God*.
  - a) Yet, as with even *identical twins*, each is noticeably *individual*.
  - b) *The twin truths*: the costliness of the Treasure/Pearl & the delight of the Purchaser.
4. Slide10 Hendrik Van Loon wrote of this world, "*Ours is a 5th-rate planet, revolving around a 10th-rate sun, in the forgotten corner of the universe.*"
  - a) But, Jesus assures us that *this world* is the object of His concern, and one which *He purchased* for the manifestation of His glory. Herbert Lockyer

### III. Slide11 HIDDEN TREASURE & THE TREASURE HUNTER (44)

#### A. Definitions: [since Jesus didn't interpret, we have come up w/many interpretations]

1. Field = World, this habitable globe, *His kingdom reign*.
  - a) Slide12 *The kingdom of God is the reign of God. It is the saving reign of God. It is the saving reign of God that is partly present and partly future. And it is the present and future saving reign of God and of Christ.* Piper
2. Treasure = redeemed/church/you & I. A man/the Purchaser = Jesus.

3. Purpose of buying the **field** was to own **the treasure**.
  4. **Slide13 The Field**, the world. **For God so loved the world**, but not for the **planets** sake. And not just for 1 nation. And not just for the elite, rich, & powerful. **But He reached out to: the unlovables** (Lepers). **To the people who detested him** (Manasseh). **To the ones that had been too busy for Him** (like Matthew the tax collector). **To those who were too rich for God** (Zacchaeus). **Even to those who were working directly against God** (Saul).
  5. **Slide14 For God so loved a sinful world**. Every race. Rich & poor. Powerful & powerless. Male & female. Democracy's & Dictators. Israel & Istanbul. Abusers & defenders. Those trafficked & their traffickers. And yes both Democrats & Republicans (*ok I'll say it...even Trump & Hilary supporters*).
  6. **For God so loved a sinful world**. For...the **treasure** out of that world.
    - a) **Slide15** Charles Wesley Hymn: *Amazing love. How can it be That thou, my God, shouldst die for me.*
    - b) **The gospel is not what we can do for God, but what He did for us!**
- B. R.C.Trench, Archbishop of Dublin said, *The Oriental custom of the day was that Rich men would divide their goods into 3 parts:*
1. **Slide16** One they would put into **Commerce** for their support.
  2. One they would put into **Jewels** which might be easily carried.
  3. The 3rd they'd **Bury**.
    - a) **Interesting**, these next 3 parables speak of **burying a Treasure**, **finding a Jewel**, & next week **Commerce** by fishing.
- C. **Slide17** This man plowing/digging in a field (not his) seemed to turn up *a treasure chest*.
1. Maybe the picture of a **peasant** who, while working the field of a wealthy landowner, found the treasure but covered it again lest the landowner claim it for himself.
  2. **Ever find a treasure?** (out somewhere? in an old attic? at a garage sale? on Pinterest?)
    - a) **Collecting coins as a kid**.
    - b) I once bought **boxes of books** from an old pastor retiring...all because I wanted the **10 vol. set of Kittels** (just give me \$100 for all. **TDNT, worth \$200**)
- D. **Treasures are still found:**
1. **Slide18a A Shepherd boy** throwing rocks in Nov/1946. (Finding the Dead Sea Scrolls)

2. Slide18b/c This May a Treasure trove was found in ancient sunken cargo ship off Israel. A couple of divers in the ancient Israeli port of **Caesarea** brought up some items from the seabed, leading to the discovery of bronze statues, coins & other artifacts that went down with a cargo ship 1,600 yrs ago.
  - a) Also 44 pounds of coins bearing the images of the emperor Constantine.
3. Slide18d Just 3 months ago a Priceless treasure found off Florida coast in Cape Canaveral, Fla. *Global Marine Exploration Inc.* found 3 ornate bronze cannons & a marble monument w/the Coat of Arms of France on it from 1548
- E. Slide18e He sold all He had - He parted w/all He had. [we didn't buy our lives into the kingdom?]
  1. Phil.2:7 Emptied Himself (divested Himself of His visible Glory).
    - a) Only of the outward & visible manifestations of the Godhead. *God may change form, but He cannot cease to be God.*
  2. When He was to return to the Father what did He ask for back? His Glory, He once had, Jn17:1-5.
    - a) *He became a beggar, even though, of himself, & up to this point, He was Rich.*
- F. Slide19 When the Lord purchased the world, was he looking to own another Planet? No, He wanted the treasure which was buried in the world. He Wanted You.

#### IV. Slide20 THE MERCHANT & HIS EXPENSIVE PEARL (45,46) valuable, priceless

- A. The former parable, the man discovered *by accident* the treasure in the field. But in this parable the merchantman was *seriously & deliberately* searching for flawless pearls. It was the business of his life. [the treasure was found...the pearl was sought]
- B. Slide21 Def: Merchant = Jesus. Pearl = redeemed/church/you. Purchased = by Jesus on Calvary.
- C. The Merchant - 1st note, *the kingdom of heaven was like* (not a pearl) but a merchant.
  1. The term used here, *merchant*, had the primary meaning of *one who travels abroad (by ship) to acquire his wares.* *Bible Sense Lexicon, Logos*
    - a) He specifically was a *wholesaler* as distinguished from a *retail* dealer.<sup>1</sup>
    - b) It portrays Jesus then as one who was a *connoisseur & knew all about* pearls.

<sup>1</sup> Strong's #1713 ἔμπορος [em-por-os/] a merchant as opposed to a retailer or petty tradesman.

- (1) **Inferior Pearls** came from the **Red Sea**. The **better ones** came from the Persian Gulf & off India's coast.
  - (2) He had **discernment & knowledge**, as to their **real worth**, and could not be deceived by any **sham production**. *Lockyer*
2. **The Merchant** was a superior person who knew the **value** of Jewels.
    - a) He is **thoughtful, earnest, & anxious** after *the best things*.
  3. Know this also, **pearls** in so far as their value was known then, were specifically and particularly for *the adornment of kings*.
    - a) Jesus **purchased us** that He might eternally possess us.
  4. The Merchant **found** me/us/His church/the redeemed out of His kingdom, & **gave** His All for us, & **bought** us w/a costly price.
- D. **Slide22 The Purchase** - none of the ransomed will ever know all that was involved in the price He paid to have the redeemed people as His **Pearl**. *Though He was rich, yet to purchase us, He became poor.*
1. This heavenly Merchantman had **no money or possessions** to barter for the pearl. He gave one's most precious possession - **His own blood/life**.
  2. **Assessing our value, He paid the price & never regretted His purchase.**
    - a) **Did you hear that?** Never regretted His purchase...*for you!*
- E. **Slide23 Pearl Myths:**
1. **Early Chinese myths** told of pearls falling from the sky *when dragons fought*.
  2. **Ancient legend** says that pearls were thought to be *the tears of the gods* and the Greeks believed that wearing pearls would promote **marital bliss** and prevent newlywed women from crying.
  3. **The oldest known pearl jewelry fragment** was found in the sarcophagus of a Persian princess who died in 520 BC.
  4. **The shell of the mollusk is what determines the coloring of a pearl.** Colors range from white to gold to purple to black. **And, No two pearls are alike.**
- F. **Slide24 The Pearl** is valuable & **beautiful**. Ps.45:11 says, *So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.*

1. Though **Pearls** were not counted precious by the Jews & are never mentioned in the OT, **but** in the 1st cent of the Christian era it had become a status symbol of wealthy people. [some see the treasure speaking to the Jews & pearl to the Gentile believers]

a) **However, Jesus** knew all about the **history** of a pearl, **where** it came from, **how** it was formed, **and** its **real value**.

G. **A Pearl** is a product of a living organism, which is **not** true of any other precious stone.

1. It is produced as the result of an **injury** suffered by a living organism (an oyster/mollusk **or** Christ)

2. It begins as nothing more than **a foreign substance** stuck in the shell of an **Oyster**. [not usually **sand**, usually a biological intruder, a parasite organism like a drilling worm]

3. The foreign substance is pretty **useless in itself, worthless by itself, & an irritant of itself**. **So** are **we** outside of a relationship to Christ.

4. The Oyster continually surrounds that irritant w/a crystalline substance called **nacre** which hardens over the years, **slowly & gradually, in the dark**.

a) **Out of much suffering, an object of beauty is produced. Jesus' blood** continually covers us, over & over with a special nacre of glory, continuously **secreting the nacre of His love** all over us, all the way to heaven.

b) It causes us to be **transformed**, giving us **a beautiful white luster, turning us into a glistening jewel of delight! And...the old dirty grain** is no longer recognizable. [did you know...you can't even find it if you cut the pearl in half]

H. **Slide25a** When Christ returns His church will be ready as His pearl. In its **purity** as well as its **beauty** as a fit gem for **His Imperial Diadem**.

1. Once, its home was in the depths of the sea, in the **muck and mire** & trying to avoid the **scavengers** of the depths. **Now brought up. Valued. Priceless. Flawless.**

2. I wonder then if that's why **every entrance** into heaven, all 12 gates, are made of **a giant pearl**. Rev.21:21 **The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.** (where we get the phrase "pearly gates")

a) **Maybe** to remind us every-time we see or pass thru them, what Jesus suffered for us, the time of our preparation, & His whole process of **making beauty out of ashes**.

b) Christ is the only door to heaven...but its capital city has 12 gates so the redeemed may come from all points of the compass, *from all tribes & nations*.

3. Slide25b We desire **a revolution, a public revival** but maybe, thinking of the pearl, our Christian life is about **a slow long obedience** in the same direction. **A layer by layer** of Christ's love, wrapping around our lives. Thus we **plod on** with the same Scriptures, same truths, same worship, listening to the same bible teacher. **But** maybe we can Sing like we mean it. Worship in Spirit & truth. Rejoice when the gospel is faithfully preached. Bear w/those who hurt you. Give people the benefit of doubt. Say hi to the teenager no one notices. Take the new couple out for coffee. And **not despise the day of small things**.<sup>2</sup>

Zech.4:10

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Kevin DeYoung, Why we Love the Church.