I. Slide 1 Announce:
   B. Slide 5, 6 Jessica Cernetic: Moms on a Mission.
   C. Slide 7 Antioch Bible College: me
   D. Slide 8 This Wed Night... *Galatians, the gospel of xaris/Grace* (17 weeks back to back, 6 ch. + 9 fruit)

II. Slide 9 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. Slide 10 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. Slide 11 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) Slide 12 *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 unlovable (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).


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, shouldest 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.¹
         b) It portrays Jesus then as one who was a connoisseur & knew all about pearls.

¹ Strong’s #1713 ἔμπορος [em·por·os/] a merchant as opposed to a retailer or petty tradesman.
Inferior Pearls came from the Red Sea. The better ones came from the Persia

(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 possessed 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. Slide 22 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. Slide 23 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. Slide 24 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.²

Zech.4:10

² Adapted from Kevin DeYoung, Why we Love the Church.