

Matthew 13:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Analysis

The parable 'The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls' presents another picture of the kingdom's supreme value. Unlike the accidental discovery in verse 44, this merchant actively sought pearls, representing intentional spiritual seeking. Finding 'one pearl of great price,' he sold all to buy it. This teaches that when Christ is truly encountered, all other pursuits pale in comparison. The single pearl represents Christ Himself.

Historical Context

Pearls were among antiquity's most precious gems, valued more than gold. Merchants traveled extensively seeking fine pearls. This man's expertise meant he recognized supreme value when found. His willingness to sell all demonstrated the pearl's incomparable worth.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does your life demonstrate that you've found the 'pearl of great price'?
2. What lesser 'pearls' distract you from pursuing Christ wholeheartedly?

Interlinear Text

Πάλιν	όμοία	ἐστὶν	ἡ	βασιλεία	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	ἀνθρώπω
Again	like	is	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of heaven	man
G3825	G3664	G2076		G932		G3772	G444
ἐμπόρω	ζητοῦντι	καλοὺς	μαργαρίτας·				
unto a merchant	seeking	goodly	pearls				
G1713	G2212	G2570	G3135				

Additional Cross-References

Job 28:18 (Parallel theme): No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

Matthew 13:24 (Kingdom): Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Matthew 16:26 (Parallel theme): For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (Parallel theme): Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Matthew 22:5 (Parallel theme): But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: