

# Pearl of Great Price

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# Food for Thought

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**Proverbs 23:23** “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”

# Origin of Pearls

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- Formed by oyster or mussel when a foreign body enters it
- By themselves oysters and mussels are unclean creatures
- Jews would have nothing to do with unclean creatures



# Pearl of Great Price Parable

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Matthew 13:45-46 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

# Why the Parable?

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- Pearls are not mentioned in the Old Testament
- Clearly, Hebrews did not value product of unclean creatures
- CHRIST taught the parable by the shore of the sea of Galilee
- Galileans were familiar with Gentile traders seeking best pearls
- Galileans would understand spiritual truths relevant to pearls

# The Meaning of the Parable

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“The parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls has a double significance: it applies not only to men as seeking the kingdom of heaven, but to Christ as seeking His lost inheritance.”

**Ellen Gould White, CHRIST's Object Lessons, page 118.**



# Christ as Merchant and Man as Pearl

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Revelation 21:12... 21 “And he ...showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God... And had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.”

# Christ as Merchant and Man as Pearl

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- Christ, the heaven's Merchant, offered His life to buy us!
- Without Christ we are as unclean as oysters and mussels
- Pearls represent complete purity, holiness and perfection
- We are changed by the Holy Spirit into beautiful pearls
- As pearls, we identify with one of the 12 sons of Israel
- Pearly gate matching our character is entry into God's City





# Man as Merchant and Christ as Pearl

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- In Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” **Col. 2:3**
- “Jesus Christ Himself is the Pearl of great price.”
- “The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain.”
- “All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.”

**Ellen Gould White, CHRIST's Object Lessons, page 115.**

# Man as Merchant and Christ as Pearl

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- “We are to seek for the pearl of great price, but not in worldly marts or in worldly ways.” **Ellen Gould White, CHRIST’s Object Lessons, page 117.**
- “... Christ as the precious pearl, and our privilege of possessing this heavenly treasure, is the theme on which we most need to dwell. It is the Holy Spirit that reveals to men the preciousness of the goodly pearl.” **Ellen Gould White, CHRIST’s Object Lessons, page 118.**
- “Salvation, with its blood-bought, inestimable treasures, is the pearl of great price.” **Ellen Gould White, Selected Messages Book 1, page 399.**



# Questions for Thought

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- Merchant understood the pearl's value: do we understand the value of Christ?
- Does it occur to us that to have Christ, is to have everything we ever needed?
- In original language “**went**” to sell all... meant **made haste** to go sell all...  
Can we make haste to sell all our pride, ego, earthly desires... to have Christ?



# Quotation for Thought

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“There are some who seem to be always seeking for the heavenly pearl. But they do not make an entire surrender of their wrong habits. They do not die to self that Christ may live in them. Therefore, they do not find the precious pearl. They have not overcome unholy ambition and their love for worldly attractions. They do not take up the cross and follow Christ in the path of self-denial and sacrifice. Almost Christians, yet not fully Christians, they seem near the kingdom of heaven, but they cannot enter there. Almost but not wholly saved, means to be not almost but wholly lost.” **EGW., CHRIST’S Object Lesson, page 118.**