

Bible Class Notes – Studies in Matthew – Lesson 136

The Saviour Comes and Begins His Work

This week – The Lord teaches us the value of Heaven - that we should strive obtain it at all cost.

Jesus said, “The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” *Matthew 13v45,46*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Matthew 13v44-58 (The Pearl of Great Price, Heaven)	
Monday	Matthew 15v29-39 (The Lord’s compassion)	
Tuesday	Matthew 16v13-28 (The value of a soul)	
Wednesday	Matthew 7v1-14 (Sincerely seek the Lord)	
Thursday	Philippians 3v1-14 (Gains compared to losses)	
Friday	Isaiah 55 (Come and buy without money)	
Saturday	1 Peter 2v1-12 (Christ, chosen of God, precious)	

Important Thought for us Today: Do you desire to be rich? The vast majority today have this as one of their greatest ambitions; the one in which they mistakenly place all their trust. The Bible teaches us that worldly wealth does not bring soul satisfaction and that any wealth we have will only last while we are alive. We leave it behind at death. Wealth cannot purchase us God’s forgiveness for our sin, nor a place in eternal Heaven. Paul wrote for our learning, *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6v10.* **So be warned, do not place your trust in worldly wealth.** We would profit much by listening to what the Lord says to us in His Word. Read *Matthew 6v31-34.* God does not promise to provide all that we **want**, but to provide all we **need**. **He knows best.** (Forgiveness of sin, peace with God, riches in Heaven - eternity). **Let us value Christ and seek Him today.**

Hymn 539 – No cost is too great to gain the knowledge of Christ, and sins forgiven.

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| <p>1. And must I part with all I have,
My dearest Lord, for Thee?
It is but right, since thou hast done
Much more than this for me.</p> | <p>2. Yes, let it go! One look from Thee
Will more than make amends
For all the losses I sustain
Of honour, riches, friends.</p> |
| <p>3. Ten thousand worlds, ten thousand lives,
How worthless they appear,
Compared with Thee, my sovereign, Lord,
Supremely high and dear!</p> | <p>4. Saviour of souls, should I from Thee
A single smile obtain,
Though destitute of all things else,
I’ll glory in my gain.</p> |

EDT Bible Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

The Parable of The Pearl of Great Price.

- **In This Parable The Lord** uses a merchant who seeks to find a pearl of great value to encourage us to seek the Lord as Saviour, and Heaven as our home.

- **The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price.**

The merchant seeks for the best pearl, finds it, and sells all he owns to buy it. The best pearls are rare, with a beautiful sheen, highly prized, and very costly.

- **The Merchant was a Collector of Pearls.**

He searched far and wide to obtain the best pearls, facing danger in travel.

- **We are Also Collectors of ‘Pearls’ – The Pearls of Life.**

What are we collecting? What treasures do we boast of? Are we paying dearly?

Do we spend all our time in pursuing worldly entertainment, social media, music tracks, videos, or planning our future – qualifications, career, marriage, home?

Have you seen the beauty of the Lord Jesus? Do you have a great desire to know Him?

- **The Greatest Pearl of All – Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven.**

The Lord Jesus is the King of Heaven; Heaven is the reflection of His glory. **He is:**

- **Absolutely Genuine** – Like a perfect pearl He is truly and genuinely God.

- **Unique** – There is **only** One Saviour, the God-Man, Jesus Christ, perfect. **Only He** could buy the gift of Eternal Life for us by dying on Calvary for sinners.

- **Precious** - Because of Who He is - the Eternal, All-powerful, All-knowing God. No amount of money could buy our pardon, but His death buys our freedom.

- **Enduring** - He is the source of everlasting life, offering it to all who believe. His love never fades; All His promises to us are true and are never broken. Knowing Christ brings real joy and gladness throughout life and into eternity.

- **Transforming** – A pearl necklace brings beauty to a woman. So, Christ brings a new lustre to a poor, needy sinner, when they ‘put on’ Christ’s righteousness.

- **A Huge and Costly Exchange.**

- **The Merchant realised** that to buy this pearl he had to sell all that he owned.

We are faced with a similar decision – Are we prepared to give up our sin, our ambitions, and our pride in order to ‘gain’ Christ and His forgiveness? To follow Him obediently?

- **Complete Satisfaction** – The pearl surpassed all the merchants’ expectation; well-worth all he had given up to buy it. He could now gaze upon it for ever.

- **A Precious Saviour** – This is what all true Christians feel when they give up this world, (with all its’ tawdry pleasures and values), to follow their Lord and Saviour.

The Queen of Sheba said about Solomon, *“I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it.” 1 Kings 10v7.* Let us also use these words as we see the loveliness of the Saviour.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”
Philippians 3v7,8.