

## **A Treasure and a Pearl**

**By Elder David Pyles**

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, 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. – Mt 13:44-46*

The two parables expressed in these verses are descriptions of those who discover the joys of the kingdom of heaven. By “*kingdom of heaven*” He does not necessarily mean kingdom *in* heaven. While it originates in heaven, it extends to earth. It is the realm of gospel reign, and its citizens include all who have been blessed to believe in Jesus Christ and His truth. Now the joyous discovery of this kingdom can happen in two different ways.

The first is comparable to a man who is plowing in an old familiar field, but he then hears his plow strike an object in the ground, and upon digging further to investigate, he finds that a treasure box of enormous worth has been hidden under his feet all along. This is descriptive of those who had been brought up hearing of Jesus Christ and His teachings, but had no perception of this treasure until God opened their eyes to see it. Prior to this, they were not even searching for it.

However, there are others who were not so fortunate as to have this truth at their convenient disposal. When God changed their hearts, He put them in a troubled and needy state, which set them on a long and arduous search for peace and satisfaction. Life usually seems complicated and confusing to a man with a troubled mind, and such is also the case with his quest for solutions. He is like a man seeking *many* pearls. But he eventually discovers that things are not as complicated as he perceives. He does not need many pearls. He only needs *one* big, beautiful pearl. This pearl is Jesus Christ, the very Son of God!

Over the last two thousand years, millions have joyously experienced and attested to what these two parables teach. These millions have been taken from all classes of men and women – poor and rich, old and young, imprisoned and free, and from all

societies and races of men. Were there so many witnesses to an alleged cure for cancer, no sensible man having cancer would cynically walk away from it. *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,”* (Mt 11:28).

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