

MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN # 6

"THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE"

I. AN ANALYSIS OF THIS PARABLE (Matt.13:45,46)

- A. The merchant man of this parable is none other than the Lord Jesus Himself.
- B. The Pearl of great price here is the Church and the cost of it was the same as that of the Hidden Treasure which represents Israel. It cost the Lord Jesus "all that He had" to redeem those who make up the church (I Pet.1:18; Eph. 5:25).

II. WHAT WE CAN ANTICIPATE DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE

- A. We can expect the church, which was born out of injury like a pearl, to be formed and to grow as a living organism with believers being added to it and becoming a living part of it. Notice this process in Acts. 2:41,47; 5:14; 11:24; Eph.2:21; Col.2:19.
- B. We can expect the church to grow until it is taken out of this world. Just like a pearl must be taken out of its place of formation before it can become an object of adornment, so will the church be taken out of this world at the rapture and then be presented to Christ at the marriage of the Lamb which will take place after the Judgment Seat of Christ (Eph 5:25,26,27; Rev. 19:7,8).

III. SOME APPLICATIONS WE CAN MAKE FROM THIS PARABLE.

- A. The first thing we see in this parable is the cost of our salvation. We who make up the church or "the pearl of great price" were purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; I Pet 1:19). Salvation is not something an individual merits or provides for himself. It is only by grace through faith in what Christ has done.
- B. Another application we can make from this parable is how we as believers received life. When we believed we were at that moment baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of believers which is the church (I Cor.12:13) and we became a part of a living organism because the Holy Spirit took up residence

within us and gave us life (JN.6:63).

- C. Finally, we can see something in this parable which ought to result in our praise to the Lord. Just like the formation, the beauty, and the value of a pearl owes its existence to the injury of an oyster, all we are or ever shall be we owe it to the One who was wounded for us.