

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE  
SERMON OUTLINE

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#5- Series on the Parables

**PARABLES OF THE PEARL AND DRAGNET**

**Matthew 13:45-50**

Remember we learned from **1 Cor. 10:32** that it tells us; “*Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Gentiles or to the church of God.*”

In broad strokes, the Lord paints the human race into 3 groups.

Common misinterpretation: The Pearl represents Jesus Christ, and the man is a seeking sinner who gives all he has to obtain salvation. He turned his back on all he had to achieve heaven.

Reasons to reject this interpretation:

- ⇒ **Sinners aren't seeking Jesus, but rather, Jesus is seeking sinners.**
- ⇒ **The merchant-man bought the pearl** - Salvation is not of works, and cannot be bought, but it is the gift of God!
- ⇒ **He sold all he had to obtain it** - What does a sinner have that is valuable enough that he can sell it and have enough to buy Christ?

So, this parable is about you and me. In the pearl, we see the church. The pearl comes out of the sea, and the sea in Scriptures typifies the masses of the world. The church is composed of precious souls, redeemed out of every nation, kindred, people and tongue. The pearl is one, and the church is one in Christ.

**I. THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE - NOTICE**

Vs.45-46

- A. How the pearl was wrought. [came into existence]
- B. How the pearl was sought  
Thru the Scriptures - Thru the Spirit - Thru the Saints
- C. How the pearl was bought

Now let's look at the next parable . . .

**II. THE DRAGNET - Vs. 47-50**

Of all of Jesus' parables, He has now given to His disciples, I'm sure this is the one they could relate to the best because it uses an illustration from the fishing world, and most of these guys had backgrounds from that industry.

This parable reveals to us what God is doing among lost people today. **The gospel of the kingdom involves two things: invitation and then separation.** The net is the church, extending the gospel invitation.

What do we see in this parable:

**A. THE INVITATION V-47**

- 1. The casting.
- 2. The gathering

**B. THE SEPARATION V. 48-50**

The interpretation of this parable reaches out into the future.

- 1. It will be final
- 2. It will be factual
- 3. It will be fatal

I am glad to be a part of the church, the pearl of great price! Ephesians says, "Unto Him BE GLORY in the Church." The Lord Jesus is be glorified in the Church and by the Church. Beloved - Jesus is to be the **SUBJECT** of our gathering. Jesus is to be the **OBJECT** of our gratitude – “unto Him Be Glory in the Church” – the pearl of great price.