

Matthew 13:44

44 The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

Matthew 13:45-46

45 Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

The 4 Preceding Parables:

- The Sower of the Seeds in the 4 Different Soils.
- The Parable of the Wheat & Weeds that Grow Together.
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed that is Planted.
- The Parable of the Yeast that is Inserted into the Bread.

God in Each Parable:

- God is the Sower
- God is the owner of the field
- God is the planter of the mustard seed
- God is the woman who adds yeast to the bread

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1st Possible Interpretation:

- Believers in Jesus Christ are represented by the man who discovered the treasure.
- The found treasure is the Kingdom of Heaven

2nd Possible Interpretation:

- God is represented by the man who discovered the treasure.
- The treasure is the Universal Church of Jesus Christ in the world

Juxtaposition Defined:

A juxtaposition is the act of placing two or more things side by side: often to compare or contrast, or to create an interesting effect.

Biblical Juxtaposition:

The desired effect of Biblical juxtaposition is to put things together for comparison and/or contrast in order to create a dynamic image, thereby painting a 4-D picture of something that is more than the sum of its parts.



Psalm 119:62

⁶² I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.

Psalm 135:14

For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel for his own special treasure.

Proverbs 2:1

¹ My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. (Proverbs 2:7, 7:1, 10:14)

Exodus 19:5

⁵ Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me.

Deuteronomy 7:6

⁶ For you are a holy people, who belong to the Lord your God. Of all the people on earth, the Lord your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure.

Deuteronomy 14:2

² You have been set apart as holy to the Lord your God, and he has chosen you from all the nations of the earth to be his own special treasure.

Deuteronomy 26:18

18 The Lord has declared today that you are his people, his own special treasure, just as he promised, and that you must obey all his commands.

Matthew 6:19-21

19 Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-21

Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19-21

Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.



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A Biblical Juxtaposition

God, His Word, and the Kingdom of Heaven are the Treasure

- The Only, Ultimate, and Eternal Treasure
- All other valuables one owns are worthless in comparison!

A Biblical Juxtaposition

- God, His Word, and the Kingdom of Heaven are the Treasure (cont..)
 - The only treasure that makes one truly rich and truly wealthy

A 4-D Interpretation: A Biblical Juxtaposition

God is the Treasure Hunter

- He is always seeking Valuable
 Treasure
- He paid the Highest Price (Everything He Owned) to purchase the field that contained the treasure.

A Biblical Juxtaposition

- God is the Treasure Hunter (cont...)
 - A Treasure Hunter knows that Dirt don't Hurt!
 - 1. Finding Buried Treasure requires the Treasure Hunter to sift thru dirt, rottenness, smelliness, filth, and death.

A Biblical Juxtaposition

The Church of Jesus Christ is God's Treasure

- Universal and Local Congregations
- A Treasure Chest of diverse pieces, gems, precious metals etc. (individual believers)

Matthew 13:45-46

45 Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

A Biblical Juxtaposition

- God is the Wealthy Merchant
 - He is in the business of finding choice pearls (individual believers)
 - The Wealthy Merchant sells all that He has in order to buy a pearl of Great Value

A Biblical Juxtaposition

Every Individual Believer in Jesus Christ is a Pearl of Great Value

- Your chances of finding a pearl in a wild mollusk are estimated to be 1 in 100,000
- Chances of finding a pearl in a wild oyster are about 1 in 12,000

A Biblical Juxtaposition

Every Individual Believer in Jesus Christ is a Pearl of Great Value (cont...)

- Fewer than 5% of pearls that are found in the wild are of gem quality.
- Of those 5%, less than 1% are considered to be of Great Value.

A 4-D Interpretation: The Growth Process of Pearls:

Pearls are the direct result of a foreign substance or an irritant entering into a mollusk. At that point, in order to protect itself, the oyster covers the foreign substance with layer upon layer of NACRE.

Nacre:

Also known as Mother of Pearl, Nacre is the same substance the oyster produces to create its shell. The end result of covering the foreign substance with layer upon layer of Nacre is a pearl. The bigger the pearl, the greater the value.

A 4-D Interpretation: A Pearl of Great Value:

Pearls of Great Value are normally round and they can come in a variety of colors. But most pearls have defects in them and are not round. These pearls are true pearls, but they are not pearls of **Great Value.**

A 4-D Interpretation: A Pearl of Great Value:

These less than perfect pearls need more time in the oyster. They are lacking maturity. They need to be covered with more layers of Nacre!

As lovers, believers, and followers of Jesus Christ, it is our greatest blessing, duty, responsibility, and privilege to come to know God in an intimate and experiential 4 Dimensional

The only reason the Church is God's Special Treasure and the only reason we are each a Pearl of Great Value is because of what we are worth to the Master. Our value is based on the price our Lord and Savior was willing to pay to for us!

God's Special Treasure is full of diverse gems, precious metals, rare coins, and hand-crafted jewelry, all of which bring Him unique relationship, unique honor, and unique glory.

The mission of the Universal and **Local Church of Christ is to come** to know Christ intimately and to help make Him known to others. But you can't share what you don't know!



