

# “THE MINISTRY OF PEARLS”

Matthew 13:45, 46

“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.”  
(Matthew 13:45, 36)

## Introduction

**Question:** How is the kingdom of heaven like a man seeking goodly pearls?

**Answer:** Because Jesus gave up all that He had and bought us. (V. 46)

1. Jesus is the merchant man in Verse 45.
2. Jesus is seen leaving all to save one pearl.
3. Jesus was seeking pearls one day, and found you and me.
4. The pearl represents the believer.

(How are believers like pearls?)  
Some “Pearl Secrets”

### I. Pearls Grow “Secretly”

**Fact:** No one can see the making of a pearl.

**Fact:** It is hidden in the oyster shell under the water.

**Fact:** The pearl may think that no one sees it (nor ever will).

(The Application – So We Are Like the Pearl)

- ◆ The shell that **hides the pearl** is the very thing that **forms its beauty**.
- ◆ The isolation, darkness and “alone time” are the very seasons God uses to **form the gems**.

**Question:** What do human pearls feel like when they are isolated in secret? (Psalm 142:4)

**Question:** What’s the secret to victory when you have to walk “alone” for a season? (Ja.1:4)

**Remember:** “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:13)

### II. Pearls Grow “Slowly”

**Fact:** A gradual process must take place.

**Fact:** The pearl’s schedule cannot be rushed.

**Fact:** The pearl’s process is one of patience.

(The Application – So We Are Like The Pearl)

- ◆ Your **schedule** may be different than God’s schedule.
- ◆ Humanity is prone to **impatience**.
- ◆ We can **resent** Good’s timetable if not careful.

**Question:** What is patience, how is it developed and why is it an earmark of mature believers?

**Remember:** “He makes all things beautiful in His time.” (Ecc 3:11)

### III. Pearls Grow “Suffering”

**Fact:** The beautiful pearl is the result of injury.

**Fact:** A grain of sand gets within the shell of the oyster and injury is done to it.

**Fact:** That which it injures covers it over with NACRE layer over layer, until the pearl is formed.

#### (Application – So We Are Like the Pearl)

- ◆ The very **death** to self in you, is producing **life** for others.
- ◆ The very **pain** in you, will result in **fruit** to others.
- ◆ The very **injuries** to you, will be used by God to reveal His **grace** to others.

**Question:** How will seeing this process defeat the fiery darts of discouragement and depression when tried by fire?

**Remember:** “So then death worketh in us, but life in you.” (II Corinthians 4:12)

### IV. Pearls Grow “Smoothly”

**Fact:** Any edges diminish the pearl’s value.

**Fact:** Any pits or flaws reduce the pearl’s beauty.

**Fact:** Unsmoothed pearls will cause them to be rejected and sidelined (until)

#### (Application – So We Are Like the Pearl)

- ◆ God will chisel **off the edges** with His tools.
- ◆ God will **surface from within** what needs to be filed off.
- ◆ God will use the **all things** of Romans 8:28 for His ultimate good.
- ◆ The devil will never show you the **end product** of God’s smoothing process!!!

**Remember:** “Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness to do thee good at thy latter end.” (Deuteronomy 8:16)

### V. Pearls Grow “Selectively”

**Fact:** The word translated “pearl” is derived from a Sanskrit word with means “pure”.

**Fact:** The pearl stands today suggesting purity.

**Fact:** This purity comes from the wounding of another.

#### (Application – So We Are Like the Pearl)

- ◆ Purity (Holiness/Wholeness) is our privilege as the result of **Christ’s wounding**.
- ◆ God has designed us all to be **pure** and **holy**.
- ◆ God will (with our cooperation) **remove anything** that tarnishes His image in us.

**Remember:** “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” (Galatians 5:24)

## VI. Pearls Grow “Shielded”

Fact: The very shell that hems in the pearl is protecting it.

Fact: The very shell that squeezes it, is surrounding it.

Fact: The very pressure that keeps it inside, is the same pressure that keeps intruders out.

### (The Application is Clear)

- ◆ God will keep His pearls in safe keeping.
- ◆ God will use outside pressures for His glory to protect you.
- ◆ God will use your oysters in life to crowd you to himself (so don't resent them).
- ◆ God help us to see life from your perspective.

Remember: “As for God, His way is perfect.” (Psalm 18:30)

## VII. Pearls Grow “Seasonally”

Fact: Pearls do not stay in oysters!

Fact: Pearls are not made for oysters.

Fact: Pearls are formed to “come out” and be displayed.

### (Thank you Jesus)

- ◆ Never forget this, that everything in life is seasonal.
- ◆ Every season is always under God's control (not mans).
- ◆ There is always a proper conclusion to every single trial you will ever face.
- ◆ Your ultimate destination, purpose and glory is never in the hands of mortal man.

Man is just man. God is still God!!!

Remember: I Peter 1:6, 7 & 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18

P.S. “Lord, help us to remember when under water.”

1. Our present field may be limited, but we are not limited by our field.
2. A bad attitude makes a person a prisoner of their own experience.
3. The root cause of all complaints is feeling that we are not getting what we deserve. The truth is, we don't want what really deserve.
4. Discouragement is a lie of the devil, to blind us in the present of what God is going to do in the future.

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk