

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

You Asked For It, Pt. 6

Kingdom Merchants

Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

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What do we value enough to ask God for?
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Matthew 6:9-10, "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

- In **Matthew 13:24-52** He reveals the kingdom to us

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- 1) Seeds God sows (including us) in **the weed strewn world**
 - 2) Seeds planted will **grow & become** a benefit to others
 - 3) Our deposit will be **a change agent** in our environment
 - 4) **On the lookout** for God's valuables **concealed** in the world around us
*More valuable than anything else we have

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Matthew 13:45-46, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."
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Vs. 44 Also began, "**Again**, the kingdom of heaven is like"

- Each example is like **a link in a chain**
- Not a separate, isolated application
- We asked, **what type of person** found this treasure?

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Vs. 45 is a different type of seeker

- Looking for **specific** treasure

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Like the body parts illustrated in **I Corinthians 12:12-27**...

- These **different parts** of the kingdom are **interdependent**.

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This kingdom seeker is "**a merchant seeking beautiful pearls**"

- Are you here to **transact commerce** in kingdom valuables?
- Are you looking for things **especially valuable** to God?
- Deposits that are expressions of **who God is**
- Are you hoping to do **the business of heaven** on earth?

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Pearls represent **beauty, wisdom & great value**

- **Revelation 21:21**, The gates of the New Jerusalem are made of pearls
- **Proverbs 31:23**, The gates of a city are where wisdom & authority are transacted (Wise wives empower their husbands)
- **Matthew 7:6**, Jesus warned to not cast our pearls before swine

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The kingdom seeker in **Vs. 44** was **looking in** God's field, **the world**

- **Where** are you looking for **pearls** of the kingdom?
- The **Word of God** is a minefield worth searching
- **Proverbs 2:1-5, 4:5-9, 8:1-9:6 & 13:20** are good places to start

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How much are you **willing to invest**?

- **How much** did this merchant pay?
- What is **most valuable** to you?
- How about your **time & effort**?

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If you come to the Word of God, **looking for God...**

- He'll see that **you don't leave empty handed...**
- With treasures that **do not decrease** in value

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Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is**, there your heart will be also."

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Who did he buy the pearl for?

- We can't give what we don't have, so **yes... to possess**
- The mustard seed was sown to grow & **provide opportunity for others**
- The leaven was deposited **to change its environment**

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James 4:3, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."
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What is **more valuable** than anything else we could have?

- **Jesus**, but not only for our salvation
- Deposits of **who He is** we can embrace as our own...
- **To make available to others**, also
- **John 20:21**, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

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Congratulations!!

- You are becoming deposits of God's heavenly kingdom here on earth
- As His merchants, you get to give it away, just like Jesus
- The more you get, the more you can give
- The more you give, the more He will give to you
- This is good business!!