Our scripture comes from Matthew 13:45-46. While you’re finding that, a deacon, a choir director and a pastor were in the church attic when they find an antique oil lamp. They rubbed the lamp and out came a genie. The genie says, "I can only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one." The choir director jumped up and said, “Me first! I want live in the Bahamas the rest of my life, eating without getting fat, without a care in the world." Poof! She's gone. The deacon said “Me next! I want to live Hawaii the rest of my life, relaxing on the beach, with my beautiful wife" Poof! He's gone. The genie looked at the pastor and said, “Okay, you're up." The pastor paused, thought a minute then said, "My wish is for both of them to be back in time for Sunday service."

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

Last week, we looked at Matthew 13:44 about the man who bought a field. He stumbled across a treasure in that field, the treasure was likened to the Kingdom of God. He had eyes to see the treasure. He knew what he was looking at when he saw it, but he hadn’t gone looking for the treasure. It was unintentional. We remember that he sold ALL he had and purchased THAT field… because that field was where the treasure was to be found!

 This week, we’re looking at a different situation that comes to the same result. Jesus again uses a parable to give us insight into God’s Kingdom. But we must have eyes to see and perceive, we must have ears to hear and understand.

 In order to grasp this parable, we have to first reach back in time – back to when pearls were rare, brought up from the sea bottom by professional divers, risking life to get them, never knowing which oyster holds the pearl until the oyster is open… This was before the Japanese started seeding oysters to make pearls, before plastic and resins. Pearls were of extreme value in Jesus time!

 So the parable begins **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls.** This week, Jesus tells us of a merchant. In this case, the merchant has gone seeking for beautiful pearls. Last week, it was unintentional. This week it is very intentional. We get the sense that he knows what he’s looking for – that he may even specialize in pearls.

 There are a lot of people in the world like this today. They fancy themselves seeking truth. We hear them say things like “I’m a spiritual person.” “I’m not a Christian, I’m spiritual.” I have news for you – if you don’t know Jesus Christ, you have a spirit on you all right, but it’s not a spirit from God! These people spend their days and night reading self help books and listening to false prophets. They’re seeking beautiful pearls with intention, but they’re finding only the fakes.

**Verse 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price.** This merchant locates ONE pearl of great price. He’s been searching and, when he sees this ONE pearl, he knows what he’s seeing. He has eyes to see and he understands that he’s looking at something so unique, so rare, so beautiful that it makes all the other pearls he may have seen in the past look worthless.

When we see the TRUTH of God, we understand that it is a pearl of unrivaled beauty. Beside it, all other pearls are imperfect. Nothing compares to this ONE pearl! But it’s not cheap. It’s a pearl of great price! God requires our ALL – all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, all our time, all our talents, all our possessions.

There are so many that sacrifice nothing for God. They don’t want a Lord, they just want the get out of Hell free card. They want to continue in sin, continue in stealing, gossip, lust, adultery, murdering with their tongues… but they want the get out of Hell free card. Jesus is more than a get out of hell free card.

Let’s finish verse 46 **went and sold all that he had and bought it.** Like the man from last week, this merchant sells ALL he has and buys this ONE pearl. We get the sense that he runs and eagerly sells all he owns to buy this one.

Since finding Christ, if life has not changed all that much, I suggest that you did not buy the ONE pearl…You know of Jesus, but you don’t know Jesus. God demands that we be all in. We’re either all in or we’re not in at all. Praying two minutes while in traffic, reading a Bible verse off Facebook, and wearing a cross necklace under your shirt probably doesn’t qualify as being all in. Finding the ONE pearl makes us eager to serve God! We find ways to serve without the preacher asking. We find ways to build the Kingdom of God and we do it eagerly! We run to give up all we have. We see that all our other possessions are NOTHING compared to the One of great beauty we’ve found!

Last week, we ended with the fact that we too must buy the right field. Not the field that says all roads lead to God, not the one that says we just have to be a good person, not the one that says we can continue in our sin and God will turn a blind eye. We must buy the field at the address of John 14:6 – I Am the way the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me.

This week, we must buy the ONE pearl of great value. Not the fake pearl of moralism, not fake pearl of spiritualism, not the fake pearl of enlightened philosophies. We must buy the ONE pearl of great value – the One pearl who is the way, the truth and the life. The One pearl that we must be holding in our heart when we die, because no man comes to the Father but by this One. I ask you today – have you bought the One pearl, not do you know of the One pearl, not do you know where to locate it, but have you bought It? Remember, we’re either all in or we’re not in at all. I urge you - Be all in.