

The Very Costly Pearl

Matthew 13:45-46 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

There is a three-step process that this particular merchant undergoes. This process is representative of a process that Christians go through, and one that can remind us of some very important lessons.

What did the merchant do?

He _____

- A) This is the search that every human being performs, whether they realize it or not.
- B) It is the search for fulfillment, in whatever form it comes.
- C) People try to find fulfillment in many forms, very few of which are truly satisfying.
- D) How do you search? What tools do you use?
- E) As Christians, we have used the _____ of God, which is God's word.
Psalm 119:105; 2 Peter 1:19-21; John 3:19-21

He _____

- A) Though we may search for things of value, for true fulfillment, there is no guarantee that we will recognize the proper vehicle for that fulfillment when we see it.
- B) How do we exercise our ability to discern the value of physical realities and spiritual realities, and to truly understand the proper place for both?
Philippians 4:8-9
Galatians 5:16-17

He _____

- A) This is where we see the greatest disparity between the merchant's search for fulfillment and the Christian's search for fulfillment: what we give up for God is not equivalent to the value of what we obtain because of it.

~ Matthew 19:16-22

Are you searching for true fulfillment, and using God's tools as you do so? Are you honing your senses according to God's instruction in order to understand the value of a spiritually dominated lifestyle? Having searched and recognized, are you willing to pay the ultimate price by giving up everything for God? Realize this evening, and every day of your life, that the price we pay is nothing in comparison to the reward we receive.