

# The Pearl of Great Value

*Matthew 13:45–46*

An Illustration of Jesus' Miniparable

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”



Matthew 13:45-46

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

Juan Carlos Ortiz, a brother from Argentina, offers this powerful and illuminating illustration of the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value.

**A man** sees this pearl and says to the merchant, "I want this pearl. How much is it?"

The seller says, "It's very expensive."

"How much?"

"A lot!"

"Well, do you think I could buy it?" the man asks.

"Oh, yes," says the merchant, "everyone can buy it."

"But I thought you said it was very expensive."

"I did."

"Well, how much?"

"Everything you have," says the seller.

"All right, I'll buy it."

"Okay, what do you have?"

"Well, I have \$10,000 in the bank."

"Good, \$10,000. What else?"

"That's all I have."

"Nothing more?"

"Well, I have a few dollars more in my pocket."

"How much?"

"Let's see ... \$100."

"That's mine, too," says the seller. "What else do you have?"

"That's all, nothing else."

"Where do you live?" the seller asks.

"In my house. Yes, I own a home."

The seller writes down, “house.” “It’s mine.”

“Where do you expect me to sleep—in my camper?”

“Oh, you have a camper, do you? That, too. What else?”

“Am I supposed to sleep in my car?”

“Oh, you have a car?”

“Yes, I own two of them.”

“They’re mine now.”

“Look, you’ve taken my money, my house, my camper, and my cars. Where is my family going to live?”

“So, you have a family?”

“Yes, I have a wife and three kids.”

“They’re mine now.”

Suddenly the seller exclaims, “Oh, I almost forgot! You yourself, too! Everything becomes mine — your wife, children, house, money, cars, and you, too.” Then he goes on, “Now, listen: I will allow you to use all these things for the time being. But don’t forget that they’re all mine, just as you are. And whenever I need any of them, you must give them up, because I am now their owner.”

(Adapted from “The Disciple” [Creation House], pp. 34-35.)