

# It cost him everything! (Matt 13:44-46)



## 1. Introduction

1. The love of God is the greatest single fact of the universe. It is God's motivation - why He does what He does. It is so comforting to know that this universe did not come out of some accident. It came forth from the love of God. We are the product of God's love, not a cosmic accident called 'the Big Bang'. This is why babies are born. We are born to be loved and cared for.
2. Eph 3:14-19 (NIV) → Prayer is needed to understand God's love.
  - a) Paul wants us to know the four dimensions of the love of Christ. So that we can be filled with all the fullness of God.
  - b) Divine paradox → this love surpasses knowledge. It cannot be known by mere intellectual capacity. It takes altogether a different capacity → a certain spiritual inner strength to grasp the love of God.
  - c) So Paul first prays that our inner being will be strengthened with the power of His Spirit.

## 2. Two Parables of Jesus [Matt 13:44-46]

Parable → 'this is like that,' explaining the heavenly realities using earthly examples in a familiar story. The story acts as a mirror to reflect the parallel heavenly realities.

### 1.1 Parable I

- a) It was a familiar story of those days, like Aladin and the 40 thieves.

A rich man in a certain town hears the rumour that bandits are coming to rout the town. So he collects all his treasures, puts them in a box, and hides them in the ground. (There was no bank in those days). Unfortunately, he and his family perished in the raid.

Long time elapsed. No one knows about the treasure box. The memory of the bandit raid faded and no one remembered it anymore.

One day a farmer stumbles across something. He hears a metallic sound – clang, clang! Out of curiosity he dug the ground, and behold! He found an amazing treasure! He looked around. No one saw him. Quickly he hid it under the ground again. Because he knows that to have the legal right to the treasure, he must have the title deed of the land first. If others find out, there will be a lot of competition.

The farmer went straight to the landlord for the price of the land. The notorious landlord asked for a ridiculously high price, and he just won't come down on price. So he came back home and immediately began to sell everything he owned. He sold his land, house, cattle, furniture, implements, and even a change of clothing! When he sold everything he owned, he could finally match the price.

All his friends were saying, 'You are crazy. That land is useless. It never produced anything. Only thorns and thistles and weeds! What on earth did you pay the ridiculously high price for?' The farmer just said, 'Wait and see.'

So he sold every single thing he owned and bought that field and got the treasure.

- b) Who is the farmer? What is the field? What is the treasure?

Farmer = Jesus. Field = world. Treasure = God's foreknown people hidden in the world.

- c) Jesus died for the whole world, but he didn't want the whole world. He only wanted the treasure hidden in the world! *'The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.'* (Deut 7:6)
- d) What did it cost Jesus? It cost him everything! It cost him nothing less than his life blood. *'...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with precious blood of Christ...He indeed was preordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...'* (1 Pet 1:17-21)

## 1.2 Parable II

- a) It is the same story with little variance. It cost the man everything he had!
- b) This time it was not a farmer but a merchant who was qualified to appraise the value of true pearls. This merchant went out of his way searching for a pearl of great value. He wasn't looking for a whole treasure box. Just one pearl. This is crazy! How many of us would sell everything just to have one pearl? This is God's extravagant love!
- c) One pearl = one human soul. If there would have been just one soul and no one else, and if it were you, Jesus would have gone through everything he went through just to get to you!
- d) We can never undervalue ourselves or think of ourselves as cheap or worthless when we think of the price Jesus was willing to pay. Your soul alone is more valuable than the entire universe! That's how God sees you.
- e) Pearl → speaks of suffering. It is something that has gone wrong in an oyster.

## 3. God's love precedes time & reason.

- a) Eph 1:4-5, 7; Rev 13:8 → Jesus is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. God knew what it would cost Him when He created man.
- b) Imaginary conversation between the Father and the Son  
Father: 'Should we create man?'  
Jesus: 'Father please do, it would be wonderful to have fellowship with them.'  
Father: 'Suppose they sin and turn away from us, what will you do?'  
Jesus: 'Father, I will buy them back.'  
Father: 'With what will you buy them back?'  
Jesus: 'With my own life. With my own blood.'
- c) See yourself in the palm of Jesus' hands.  
Can you see Jesus as the merchant who sold everything and bought that one pearl? That pearl is you. Now he is holding it in his hand. And he is saying, 'You are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. It cost me everything. But I do not regret the price I paid. Now you are mine.'
- d) When you have tasted the love of God, the blessings of your life will not be limited to a few hours of fleeting pleasure, but it will flow beyond endless eternity. But if you have never known the 'love of God' that is in Christ toward you, you may have a lot of external success and achievements, but ultimately you would have lived your life in vain. It will be written off as a failure. Ultimately it is a wasted life.
- e) The reason why He loves us is a mystery - 'The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you...' (Deut 7:7-8)

## 4. Jesus paid it all (1 Pet 1:17-19)

### 4.1 The Day of Atonement

1. Lev 16:14 – Only once a year the high priest could enter the Holy of holies, and only with the blood of animal sacrifice and incense to make atonement for the sins of his people.
  - a) Incense = worship
  - b) The sprinkling of the blood 7 times = number of perfection, and completeness. Jesus shed His blood exactly 7 times, thus he fulfilled this prophetically. (The Old Testament is the shadow of things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.)

## 4.2 7-Fold Shedding of Jesus' Blood

1. Luke 22:39-44 : In the garden of Gethsemane.
  - During the agonising prayer, he shed his blood → extreme agony burst the blood veins.
2. Matt 26:63-67 : In the Jewish council, before the high priest Caiaphas.
  - Lit. 'beat him with a rods.' (v67)
  - Micah 5:1 – 'They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.'
3. Matt 27:20-26 : In the Roman court, before Pilate.
  - The Roman scourge was made up of many thongs, each one studded with bone or metal. When it fell across Jesus' back, it literally ploughed his back, causing pieces of flesh to fly off in the air. It tore his back open, exposing sinews and even the backbone.
  - Is 50:6-7 – I believe this is what Jesus would've said to himself during scourging.  
The NT account of the cross is brief. It just states the facts and moves on. To know what really went on in Jesus' mind, we need to see the OT prophetic scriptures.
  - Jesus offered His back willingly. Like a lamb led to slaughter (Is 53:7). [Contrasts pig vs lamb]
4. Is 50:6
  - Jesus' beard was pulled out by the tufts and handfuls – causing blood to gush out of his face.
  - Is 52:14 → Jesus actually lost the appearance of a man.
  - marvelous prophetic statement in v15 → 'So shall He sprinkle many nations'!!
5. Matt 27:28-30 : At the Golgotha hill (which means skull).
  - The brutal soldiers didn't merely put the crown of thorns on Jesus' head. They beat it down with reeds, each stroke driving down the thorns deeper into his skull. Reeds grab the sharp thorns and drive it down.
6. Matt 27:34-36
  - His hands and feet were pierced with nails → blood (Ps 22:16; v6-8, 14-18; 1 Peter 1:10-11)
  - Jesus on the cross – Luke 23:34, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.' Is 53:12, '...He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.'
7. John 19:31-34 : After the crucifixion.
  - Soldiers pierced his side with a spear and blood and water came out → the final, 7<sup>th</sup> shedding of his blood.

## 4.3 Why His Blood?

1. Lev 17:11; Is 53:12, '...He poured out His soul (blood ) unto death.' Jesus had literally emptied out his life and blood out of his body on the cross – every drop! That is the measure of His love for you and me.
2. It cost Him all he had. You know when Jesus died, he died a death of a poor man. When he hung on that cross, he had nothing to cover himself – he was naked. The only garment he owned, the soldiers cast lots amongst them. When he was buried, he was buried in a borrowed tomb. And along each step on the way to the cross, he shed his blood until he'd completely drained his veins empty. It cost Jesus absolutely everything!
3. Can you see Jesus as that merchant who sold everything and bought that one pearl? That pearl is you. Now he is holding the pearl in his hand. And he is saying, 'You are the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. It cost me everything. But I do not regret the price I paid. Now you are mine.'