

1. **Intro** - Story of searching for waves in Oz and the historic "The Search" travel diary of Tom Curren
2. **Text** - (Matthew 13:45–46 NAS95)
3. **Main Idea:** The Bible is consistent, God's unconditional love takes the initiative to redeem us!
 1. Commentary on the Parable -
 1. Double Significance to the Pearl Story
 2. SDABC - "The "merchant man" represents primarily men in search of a Saviour, though, in addition, he properly represents Christ in search of men. Nothing is of greater value, or should be sought more diligently, than Christ Himself. On the other hand, nothing is of greater value in the sight of Heaven than the affection and devotion of created beings throughout the universe. **Even when man had fallen into sin he was of so great value in the sight of Heaven that God gave His own Son to seek for him and to restore him to divine favor, and along with this gift made available the boundless resources of Omnipotence.**" - SDABC on Matthew 13:45-46
 3. 1 - **We are the merchants & Christ as the Pearl** - **"Christ Himself is the pearl of great price.** In Him is gathered all the glory of the Father, the fullness of the Godhead. He is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God is expressed in His character. Every page of the Holy Scriptures shines with His light. The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw.
 4. In Christ are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." **Colossians 2:3.** He is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." **1 Corinthians 1:30. All that can**

- satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.** {COL 115.1}
5. **Quote:** "We cannot earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it." {COL 117.2}
 6. 2 - **Christ is the merchant, & we are the pearls** - "The parable of the merchantman seeking goodly pearls has a double significance: it applies not only to men as seeking the kingdom of heaven, but to Christ as seeking His lost inheritance. **Christ, the heavenly merchantman seeking goodly pearls, saw in lost humanity the pearl of price.** In man, defiled and ruined by sin, He saw the possibilities of redemption. Hearts that have been the battleground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than are those who have never fallen. **God looked upon humanity, not as vile and worthless; He looked upon it in Christ, saw it as it might become through redeeming love. He collected all the riches of the universe, and laid them down in order to buy the pearl.** And Jesus, having found it, resets it in His own diadem.
 7. **Text** - "For they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land." Zechariah 9:16.
 8. **Text** - "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels." Malachi 3:17." {COL 118.2}

2. MeHarry - "UNCONDITIONAL LOVE – SAVED BY GRACE "
 1. The Bible is very consistent. God takes the initiative to:
 - o Redeem the human race from the curse of the law,
 2. Justify everyone by grace through the death of Jesus
 3. Save the world from the wages of sin.
 1. "God's grace restores our freedom of choice. We can embrace the truth and surrender our lives to God or choose to love and pursue sin. Ephesians 2:4-10 is another example of this balanced understanding."
4. **Transition** - Paul elaborates on this to the church at Ephesus.
5. **Text** - "“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4–10 NAS95)
MeHarry Commentary on Eph. 2:6-10 -
6. **Question:** A. What will God's kindness show in the ages to come? (v. 7)
7. Answer - A. In the ages to come, the redeemed will be a living testimony of God's amazing grace. There will be no room for anyone to boast. Their stories will testify that God was the source of life and of any good work that they did (Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 1:6; 2:13; Romans 5:6-10).
8. Their stories will reveal how His:
 9.
 - o Forgiving grace freed them from slavery to sin.
 - o Healing love turned them from being enemies to being friends.
 - o Life in them enabled them to love others as He had loved them.
 10. **Question:** B. What enables us to experience salvation that is by grace? (8)
 11. Answer - B. In verse 5 Paul wrote, "By grace you have been saved." This communicates what Jesus did for the human race. In verse 8 Paul wrote, "By grace you have been saved through faith." Faith is embracing the truth. Unbelief is rejecting it. Those who believe will experience inner peace and the assurance of eternal life.
 12. **Question:** C. What does God create in those who believe in Him? (v. 10)
 13. Answer - C. We are God's workmanship. "We are God's masterpiece" (NLT). God's plan includes re-creating us, giving us a new heart and putting His Spirit within us (Ezekiel 36:26,27; John 1:12,13; 3:1-6). When we give God permission to live within us, the Holy Spirit will transform us and produce the fruit of righteousness that brings glory to God (Romans 8:2-4; Galatians 5:22,23). Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:16. God is the One who is glorified, for He is the One doing the work through us.
 14. **Appeal** - Amplified version reading of Eph 2:4-5
 1. "***But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us,*** Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [**He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him,** for] it is by grace (**His favor and mercy which you did not deserve**) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation)." (Ephesians 2:4–5 AMP)