

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Pearl of Great Price: Discovering Jesus' Worth

Speaker: Pastor Keith Jenkins

Date: November 17, 2024

Introduction:

In this powerful sermon, Pastor Keith Jenkins continued the "RE Jesus" series by exploring the parable of the Pearl of Great Price. Building on previous discussions about Jesus' identity, he emphasized how recognizing Jesus' true worth should lead to wholehearted pursuit and surrender.

1. The Search for the Pearl:

Pastor Keith discussed how all people are searching for ultimate meaning and fulfillment.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were you searching for before finding Christ?
2. How does our culture's search for fulfillment differ from what Jesus offers?

Supporting Verse:

Matthew 13:45 - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Pearls were among the most valuable commodities in the ancient world.
- Theological Significance: The parable illustrates the active search for spiritual truth and meaning.
- Application: We should recognize that only Jesus can satisfy our deepest longings.

2. The Value of the Pearl:

Pastor Keith emphasized the incomparable worth of Christ and His kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes Jesus and His kingdom more valuable than anything else?
2. How has your perspective on what's truly valuable changed since knowing Christ?

Supporting Verses:

Philippians 3:8 - "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Paul was giving up significant social and religious status for Christ.
- Theological Significance: This verse demonstrates the supreme value of knowing Christ.
- Application: We should regularly evaluate what we truly value most in life.

3. The Sacrifice Required:

Pastor Keith discussed the cost of following Jesus and the joy of surrender.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has following Jesus cost you personally?
2. How can we view sacrifice for Christ as joy rather than burden?

Supporting Verses:

Matthew 16:24 - "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was preparing His disciples for the cost of following Him.
- Theological Significance: True discipleship requires complete surrender to Christ's lordship.
- Application: We should examine what we need to surrender to follow Christ more fully.

Conclusion:

Pastor Keith Jenkins' message reminded us that recognizing Jesus' true identity leads to seeing His supreme worth, which naturally results in joyful surrender and sacrifice. The parable of the Pearl of Great Price challenges us to evaluate whether we truly value Christ above all else.

Reflection Questions:

1. What might be competing with Jesus for first place in your life?
2. How can you demonstrate that Jesus is your "pearl of great price" this week?
3. What is God asking you to surrender to follow Him more fully?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for revealing your Son Jesus as the pearl of greatest worth. Help us to see His value more clearly each day. Give us the courage to surrender anything that competes with His lordship in our lives. May we find joy in sacrificing everything to follow Him. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

"The Pearl of Great Price: Discovering Jesus' Worth," East Hill Church, 11/17/2024.
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Carson, D.A. "The Gospel According to Matthew." The Expositor's Bible Commentary. Zondervan, 2010.

Piper, John. "Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist." Multnomah, 2011.

Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.