

Making Right Choices
Mat. 13:44-53

^{and}
Your life and mine, so far as character is concerned, ~~is~~ made up according to the choices we make, as individuals. Many things may come in to help us in making the choice but after all you must make it. Choices must be made all the way from the cradle to the grave... There are periods when more things crowd in to be chosen from than at other times in life. Those periods have to be guarded. During High School is ~~is~~ a crowded period... during college is another, especially in the Freshman year... during the young adult period... amongst young couples is another. *It is not getting the idea that youth is the only choosing period of life - some show to be growing.* To day we have read to you three parables that have to do with the Kingdom of Heaven. In each of these choices are emphasized. Especially in the first two.

- a. Treasure hidden in a field... man finding out about it chose to buy that field.
- b. The pearl of great price... the man chose to buy it.
- c. The net spread and the catch of fish that had to be sorted out the good from the bad

For our consideration today let us think of the Pearl of Great Price. Here was a merchant that Jesus seems to admire. The man ~~clear in his thinking...~~ and he knew how to use life. So many people do not know how to use life... A life blundering through the world and misused is one of the most pitiful sites in the universe. Drunkards whether drunk on whiskey or on desire for high social standing... just blundering along... This man. This man was seeking something. He that seeketh findeth... He was not seeking just any old thing... for that would not have commended him in the eyes of the Lord.

In those days pearls were considered very valuable... just as they are to day... in those days just as now some pearls were of less value than others. It does not record that he was out seeking pearls but he was seeking goodly pearls. Neither was he satisfied to settle down with goodly pearls but he ^{was} out for the best. The good in some peoples lives gets in the way of the best.

If the merchant had been seeking cheap faulty pearls he would have found them. If that sort had been the object of his search

there he would have stopped. If you want the shoddy things of life you can find them for they are all around you. You can find shoddy folk...shoddy training...shoddy religion. And listen...your life will be typed by the choices you make and hold on to.

There are many fields of activity...we must choose in whatever field we find ourselves. The field most important to one and all is the field of religion. You might be surprised to hear a minister say so but there may be some very poor choices made in that field. There are so many things that appear in the name and the guise of religion. These things appear in the name and guise of religion and in doing so it makes it very difficult for leaders in real religion to combat it because the faulty sort can make the cry that they are fighting religion and such crying always wins sympathizers....

Frankly
If I may speak ^{plainly} to you, without your thinking me too plain spoken let me give you illustrations of things under the guise of religion but which in my way of thinking are enemies to it.

a. A minister in one of the large denominations of this part of the nation remarked in his pulpit, "If I believe historically that Jesus came into the world I could leave this pulpit, shut and lock these doors, set this church on fire and burn you people to death, and be shot while doing it and I would go as straight to heaven as a martin to his goard."

b. Then there is a cheap sort of psychiatry that is being used, I understand, that argues that to win people for religion you must arouse the sex emotion up just to the point that the victim will not become suspicious of wrong intentions on part of the religious worker and from that level the person may be led by the worker...Unfortunately women and girls become the victims of these persons more than men. There is a type of evangelists that uses this method and this explains some of the tragedies that occur in the wake of some evangelistic campaigns. We need to try the spirits and see whether they are of God and by the guidance of the Bible and the Holy Spirit and advice of good people choose the the best things in life.

We so often blunder in life and fumble the great business of the Kingdom. And since such is true let's observe the actions of this merchant:

P- 117 - *Self for the Son*

* 1. He was possessed of a definite purpose..No life is happy that is aimless...no life is happy that has an unworthy goal..as some one has said, "Too many are possessed with the joy riders attitude toward life..they care not for the direction they are going...at home at one place as much as at another....suicide comes to those of no purpose.

2. He had the highest purpose possible...no purpose is too high for a human soul made in the image of God.
Too many are satisfied with less than the best. The man went to Johns Hopkins Hospital. They told him there that if he would quit coffee, tobacco, and whiskey he could live ten years. He replied, "What would I be living for?" In your own case if you reach what you are this day striving for where will you park when the sundown comes?

3. Herecognized the best when he saw it...when this happened he gave all that he had for it. That is the least price any of us can pay for the best. *Violin*

That
4. He bought it rather ~~that~~ sit off in an easy chair and wish it was his. What is the BEST? It is Jesus and His way of life. He is not far away from any of us...There is a story of an old violin..the owner knew not the angel choir that *me* in it...so he used it as apropos for his door.

500 miles east of Vancouver } Great Divide
900 " west of Winnipeg }
5000 feet above sea level }
"I don't know"

"You do not know much do you?"
"I don't know"

