

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.



Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

—Matthew 13:44-46.

In these parables Christ Jesus emphasizes the fact that the exalted state of consciousness which may be called "the kingdom of heaven" is attained only by complete application to living the life of purity and loving service to others. Whether one is simply a devoted Christian, led by the heart, or a student of the hidden meanings of life, each day scientifically evolving the Golden Wedding Garment, the necessary change within the consciousness must be made. However, no half-measures will do; one cannot serve God and mammon. To unfold the inner latent potentials into dynamic powers requires persistent effort and concentration of purpose—whole-hearted dedication.

In one of his *Letters to Students* Max Heindel pointed out lack of concentration as the greatest general hindrance to progress in spiritual work. He went on to say:

"Consider now that in ordinary life we do not try to become a doctor and practice medicine today, work in a machine shop tomorrow, and every other day go at some other business. We know that such a course would not take us anywhere in life. Neither do we live in

one family as husband or wife today and assume similar relations in another family tomorrow; nor do we change our social circle as often as we change our coats or shoes. On the contrary, we pursue one line of work in the world; we look after one family; we concentrate our efforts in these departments of our life to the exclusion of all others.

"Why not apply the same common sense to our spiritual endeavors? We study our business; we plan ahead; we work with all our might in order to make it a success; we also study the needs of our family and we plan for them. We know that success, both social and industrial, depends upon the amount of concentration and the amount of planning we do. If, then, we are so wise concerning worldly things, which last only for the few years of our earth life, can we not bring ourselves to use the same common sense to apply ourselves equally with all our mind and with our heart to the spiritual things that are everlasting?

"I therefore urge all the students who are in sympathy with the ideas of The Rosierucian Fellowship to . . . devote their whole heart, mind, and Spirit to living and spreading the Teachings. Trained, skilled workers are sought in our earthly enterprises. In the heavenly kingdom loyalty and devotion are also prime factors."

Max Heindel also stated: "Our greatest need is *consecration*. Knowledge of the mysteries of life, as Paul said, is very good; but unless we have that love and consecration which make us follow Paul's example and we die daily, no talent, ability, or benevolence, outwardly shown, or any other thing really matters."