

The **MATCHLESS** **Pearl**



The old Indian pearl diver pulled himself out of the water and shouted, "Look at this huge pearl!"

“Rambhau! It’s a treasure!” exclaimed missionary David Morse.

“It’s a good one,” shrugged the diver, but I have a much better one. See these imperfections—that black speck, this tiny dent, even its oblong shape.”

“Your eye is too sharp for your own good,” observed Morse. “I’d never ask for a more perfect pearl!”

“It is just as you say of your God. To themselves people look perfect, but God sees them as they actually are.”

• **OFFER:** “Right, Rambhau. And God offers perfect righteousness to all who simply accept His free offer of salvation. Can’t you see that, my friend?”

“No, Sahib. As I told you before, it’s too easy. That is why I cannot accept your religion. Perhaps I am too proud, but I must work for my place in heaven or I would always feel uneasy.”

“Oh, Rambhau! You’ll never get to heaven that way. There’s only one way. To see heaven’s gates of pearl, you must accept the new life God offers you through His Son.”

“Sahib, today is my last day of diving. This is the end of the year, and I’ve made prepara-

tions. On New Year’s day I begin the pilgrimage I have planned all my life. I’ll make sure of heaven by crawling to Delhi on my knees.”

• **RESPONSE:** “You’re crazy! It’s 900 miles to Delhi. You’ll rub your knees raw and get blood poisoning before you get to Bombay.”

“But I must go to Delhi. The immortals will reward me. The suffering will be sweet. It will purchase heaven for me.”

“Rambhau! How can you do this when Jesus Christ has died to purchase heaven for you?”

“You are my dearest friend, Sahib Morse, but even you can’t turn me from my great desire to purchase eternal bliss. I must go to Delhi.” It was useless.

The old diver could not understand or accept the free salvation of Christ. A few days later, Rambhau invited the missionary to come to his hut. “I leave for Delhi in a week, and I have something to show you.”

Inside the hut Rambhau brought out a small strongbox. “I have kept only one thing in this strongbox for years. Sahib Morse, I once had a son. He was the best pearl diver on the coast of India. What joy he brought me! He always dreamed of finding a matchless

pearl. One day he found it, but had been under water too long, and lost his life soon after.” The old man bowed his head, and his whole body shook with grief.

• **GIFT:** “All these years I have kept that pearl; but now I am going, never to return, so I give it to you, my best friend.” The diver drew a huge pearl from the strongbox and placed it in the missionary’s hand. It was one of the largest and most brilliant pearls ever found off the coast of India. It would have brought a fabulous price in any market. “Sahib, this pearl is perfect,” said Rambhau.

Morse gazed in wonder at the priceless gem. “Rambhau, this is an outstanding pearl! Let me buy it. I will pay you \$10,000 for it.”

“Sahib! What do you mean?”

“Well then, I will give you \$15,000 for it. If it takes more, I will work for it.”

“Sahib,” said the diver, his body stiffening, “this pearl is beyond all price. No man could pay what this pearl is worth to me. I will not sell it to you. You may only have it as a gift.”

“No, Rambhau, as much as I want the pearl, I cannot accept it that way. Maybe I am too proud, but receiving it as a gift is too easy. I must pay for it, or work for it.”

• **DISCOVERY:** The old pearl diver was stunned. “You don’t understand. Don’t you see that my only son gave his life for this pearl, and I wouldn’t sell it for any money? Its worth is in the life blood of my son. I cannot sell it, but I can give it to you. Please accept it as a sign of my love.”

The missionary gripped the hand of the old man, “Rambhau, don’t you see? That is just what you have been saying to God.” The diver slowly began to understand.

“God is offering you His salvation as a free gift. It is so costly that no man on earth could ever buy or earn it. And no man is good enough to deserve it. It cost God the life blood of His only Son to gain heaven for you. All you can do is accept it as a sign of God’s love for you, a sinner. Rambhau, I will accept the pearl in deep humility. Won’t you accept God’s great gift of heaven, too, in humility, knowing it cost the death of His Son to offer it to you?”

Tears ran down the old man’s cheeks. He understood at last. “Sahib, I see it now. I have believed in Jesus for two years, but I could not believe that His salvation was free. Now I understand. Some things are too priceless to be earned. Sahib, I accept His salvation.”

• **REQUEST:** How about you, my friend? Are you trying to earn your way to heaven? God’s Word says: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5). “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8,9). “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Trust in Jesus now and be saved! He is your only way and only hope of heaven.

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