

The Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44

As we consider our text, we need to be reminded that parables were simple stories relating to everyday life that had spiritual meanings. For most of us, burying treasure in the ground is a thing of the past. Most people put their treasures, if they have them, in banks or secure vaults within their homes. However, in Jesus' day, it was not uncommon for people to bury their valuables in the ground. The land in and around Jerusalem had been ravaged by war for centuries. The people had grown accustomed to foreign armies invading the land and plundering whatever they could find as the spoils of war. Most kept their valuable possessions hidden in the ground, out of sight and unknown to others.

As with the parable of the leaven, and the one to follow concerning the pearl of great price, this parable is largely interpreted in one of two ways. Some view the man who found the treasure as Jesus Christ our Lord, and the treasure being representative of the church. Others view the treasure as the Gospel of Christ and the man in the parable representing those who discover the Gospel and are saved by the grace of God. I view it in light of the latter, seeing the Gospel as the treasure that the saved were privileged to find.

As we consider the [implications](#) of Jesus' teaching, I want to discuss: [The Hidden Treasure](#).

I. The Details of the Treasure – *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.* Here we discover a few details regarding the treasure. Consider:

A. The Value – Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to treasure hid in a field. The word treasure reveals something of great value, something very precious to possess. Such value will motivate the attitude and actions of the man in the parable.

- As believers, we can see the great value in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It reveals the great sacrifice made on our behalf. Jesus gave Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin, redeeming us unto Himself and reconciling us to God. Through His great sacrifice and glorious resurrection, mankind is offered salvation and eternal life. I can think of no greater treasure known to man!

B. The View – *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field.* Jesus declares the treasure was hid in a field. The treasure was covered; it was concealed within the ground. We

don't have any details concerning the treasure other than it was hidden and found by a man. The treasure was out of view from most.

- Unfortunately this remains true today. The Gospel and the things of God remain hidden to the majority. It isn't because God has refused to reveal them, but most have no desire to discover them. The majority today is uninterested in the Gospel or a relationship with Christ. They are far more concerned with the ways of the world and the desires of the flesh.

II. The Discovery of the Treasure – Jesus also reveals the circumstances surrounding the discovery of this great treasure. Consider:

A. The Providence – *which when a man hath found...* There is no mention of the man seeking the treasure. The only information we have is that he found the treasure. It appears providence led him to this great discovery. I don't believe he stumbled across it or found it by mere luck, but that God brought him to the place where the treasure was and revealed it unto him.

- I am certainly thankful for the providential hand of God in my life. There was a time in my life when I knew I was lost and undone before God. I knew that Jesus was the means of salvation, but as of yet I was not seeking Him. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Lord led me to the great treasure of the Gospel. I was not seeking it, but He revealed it unto me. Prior to that time it was hidden to me as well, but on that faithful day the Lord opened my eyes to eternal truth!

B. The Perception – *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.* Upon finding the great treasure, the man immediately re-hid it, sold all that he possessed and bought the field where the treasure was hidden. He was confident that he had found a possession of great value. He recognized the quality and worth of the treasure.

- This parable has generated controversy among skeptics for a couple reasons. First, some claim the man's actions were unethical, in that he did not disclose the treasure prior to purchasing the field. This argument lacks substance. Such treasure would have been known to the original owner, had he been the one who buried the treasure. Also, the law provided the right to keep what had been discovered as long as the rightful owner was dead or unknown. Secondly, some argue this parable presents the possibility of purchasing one's salvation. I will deal further with that in a moment, but Jesus is not implying that one can earn or purchase their salvation. The principle Jesus sought to convey was the man's perception of the great value in the treasure.

- I am thankful the Lord revealed this treasure unto me and gave me the wisdom to comprehend the great value of it. I realize my relationship with Christ exceeds anything else I possess in this life or the life to come. Many fail to see the value of a relationship with Christ. As believers, we need to do all we can to share the truth of the Gospel with those who are yet unsaved. As we plant the seed, the Spirit will work in revealing truth. Hopefully they too will perceive the great value in the Gospel and receive Christ by faith before it is eternally too late.

III. The Devotion to the Treasure – Jesus also revealed the great devotion the man had to the treasure and the great lengths he went to secure it. Notice:

A. The Sacrifice – 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. Upon finding this great treasure, the man sold all that he possessed in order to buy the field. The treasure he found was of more value than everything else he owned combined. He was willing to sacrifice everything he owned in order to secure this one possession.

- Again, Jesus is not teaching a works or merit based salvation. This reveals those who come to a realization of the Gospel, desire it above all else. They are willing to part with anything they possess in this life that would hinder their possession of the treasure of salvation. They will gladly sacrifice the old man, his habits and desires, even earthly possessions that stand in the way of salvation and being all Christ desires them to become. [Mark 8:36](#) – For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? We could abandon every pleasure and possession known to man and yet it would pale in comparison to what will receive in Christ throughout the endless age! I am reminded of the chorus of the song: *Look what I've traded for a Mansion.*

*"O look what I've traded for a mansion
O look what I'm leaving behind
O look who will be there to greet me
When I step into God's sweet paradise
I'm leaving behind all my sorrows
I'm leaving behind all my cares
For I've traded it all for a mansion
That Jesus has gone to prepare"*

B. The Satisfaction – 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.

Jesus reveals the man joyfully sold all he had to ensure possession of the treasure. He was not saddened at what he had lost because he was focused on what he had gained. Unlike the rich, young ruler, this man gladly sacrificed his worldly possessions to gain something eternal.

- Many today are convinced that happiness and joy is obtained through material wealth. Those things may provide a measure of happiness for a season, but they will not bring joy as one faces death. Only a right relationship with Christ can bring true joy. I am not rich by any means, but I have a joy in my heart that I wouldn't trade for all this world could offer. I have peace with my Lord and security for an eternal future. He is my treasure and the source of my joy!

Conclusion: Are you as the man in the parable? Have you found and secured this great treasure in Christ? If so you ought to be thankful and jubilant in spirit. Has your joy faded? If so, why not come before the Lord and confess your need. He will reveal the means of restoration for you.

Maybe as of yet you do not possess the great treasure of salvation. It has been revealed today. It is no longer hidden. Why not come and forsake all that hinders you from being saved. Look to Christ by faith, repent of your sin, and be saved today!