

**Matthew 13: 44; “The Kingdom is Like Treasure”, Session # 1 on the Parable of the Treasure Hidden in a Field, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023,in the Adult Sunday School.**

**Matthew 13: 44** – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

There are 4 short Parables which are found here together in verses 44-52. The Parable of the Treasure Hidden in a Field, verse 44. The Parable of Pearl of Great Price in verses 45 and 46. The Parable of the Dragnet in verses 47-50. And the Parable of Householder in verses 51-53. I will take them in their Biblical order and we will pray that we will learn many good things from them all.

In the two Parables that we studied before, that of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till all was leavened, we saw that the kingdom of heaven was compared to small things, because their beginnings were small. Even though the beginnings were small, we saw that because of the working of Christ’s power and His grace, the kingdom in men’s hearts and in the world, ends up being exceedingly great.

Now here in the Parable of the Hidden Treasure and in the Parable of the Pearl of Great Price we find that our Lord Jesus is setting forth the great value of people finding Jesus to be their Savior; of their believing the gospel, and entering in; that is, taking possession of the Kingdom of Heaven for themselves.

In this Parable we see the great value of a person’s finding the truth of Christ and His grace in the gospel. We see the great value of any person’s being able to appropriate to themselves all of the spiritual blessings which come to them when they find Christ. The great value of both the treasure in the field and the pearl of great price are found in our being able to possess Christ and all of the eternal spiritual riches which will lead us most certainly to possess the great realities of having eternal life in having found Him.

**So, to better understand the Parable of the Treasure hidden in a Field, let’s take verse 44 in its respective phrases:**

- I. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.
- II. Which a man found and hid.
- III. And for joy over he goes and sells all that he has.
- IV. And he buys that field.

**I. The Kingdom of Heaven is Like a Treasure Hidden in a Field.**

We have studied the kingdom of heaven before, in the Parables which have gone before this. The kingdom of heaven is the spiritual Mediatorial Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ which is entered by faith in Him. A person enters by means of the New Birth which comes through the working of the Holy Spirit to apply the great redemption which Christ has made, to each of the hearts of God’s elect people.

We saw this in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. We saw that our Lord interpreted this Parable by saying that the field is the world. The good seeds sown by the Lord are the sons of the kingdom. The tares are the sons of the wicked one who is the Devil. This gives us a good understanding of the fact that salvation is of the Lord.

But our Lord knew, and He also wished to convey this truth to us in this Parable, that there is also another great truth which is necessary for all of His disciples to understand, that relates to our personally finding this treasure of Christ in the gospel for ourselves. That is what this Parable is all about. And so, in this Parable, the field is not the world as it was in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares.

The word “field” in that Parable meant world of all men (and specifically those chosen by God unto salvation were those who were sown by the Son of Man among the field of churches all over the world. He who sows the good seed, in the field of the whole world, is the Son of Man. The Tares were those who were sown by the Devil, and they only looked like true Christians for a time). In that field of the world, the good seeds are most definitely sown by the Son of Man. Those seeds are God’s people who were chosen unto salvation and sown as true grain to show that salvation is of the Lord.

**A. In this Parable, the field is something in which this treasure is hidden in it.** And therefore, I believe, we should interpret it as the Scripture, both Old Testament and New. And more specifically, the gospel of Christ is the treasure which is hidden in this field of the Scriptures.

**Ephesians 1: 7** – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

Now, we must ask this question of this verse. How would we ever know this truth of the gospel, that we have redemption through Christ’s blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace, unless we found it in the Scriptures? We would not know it. But when someone tells us about salvation in Christ, and tells us that there are riches to be found in this field of the Scriptures, if we are wise and desire to find them, we will go to this field.

Did this man in our Parable come looking for this treasure which was hidden in this field? Well perhaps he did. He could have stumbled upon it on his own, but most likely someone told him that there was treasure in this field. Perhaps he had heard about Christ and the gospel from someone who told him about it. He thought that if he went through this field, he might just find out about the truth of these riches for himself. I think that he had heard from someone that there was treasure in this field. The treasure was in this field like a rich vein of gold in among the rocks or in the ground.

And as he walked through the field, something caught His eye. And then he saw it. He happened to stumble upon the treasure even though he never realized how great it really was. In other words, as he was reading the Scriptures and as he was looking into them, he found the treasure of Christ and the gospel. There in the word of God was the promise of eternal life in Christ freely offered. And he took it and made it His own by faith.

In finding this great treasure, He was to find Christ Himself and all the riches of His grace. That is the treasure the great salvation which is in Him. There are several verses that I want to show you which will confirm what I have just said to you about this treasure being hid in a field.

**B. The treasure was hidden from most of the world for generations.**

**Colossians 1: 24-27** – “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.” “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

**C. The Mystery of Christ is that all the Treasures of Wisdom are found in Him.**

**Colossians 2: 1-3** – “For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

All the riches of full assurance of our salvation in Christ, we must strive to attain to both in terms of understanding what the Scriptures are saying about Christ, and our loving the brethren. All true Christians hold to the mystery of Christ; that is, that He is the treasure in the field and the only way to eternal life. The treasures of His riches are treasures of imputed and imparted grace, and His giving us His Spirit to guide us into all the truth.

**D. The treasure in the field was found by the Gentiles when many of the Jews rejected Christ at His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming.**

**Isaiah 65: 1** – “I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me.” “I said, ‘Here I am, here I am,’ to a nation that was not called by My name.”

This verse was fulfilled in the days of the apostles when the Jews who should have received Christ as their Treasure, rejected Him so that they might continue on in their own self-righteousness, thinking that they did not need the riches of His grace to be saved or to live to God.

(Romans 10: 20)

**E. This treasure in the field is the hidden wisdom of God.**

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This treasure is hidden from the eyes of all men except to those who have searched for themselves the Scriptures and are willing to receive the truth about their need of Christ.

**John 5: 39 & 40** – “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” “But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

Not everyone walking through the field of the Scriptures is willing to act upon what they find there as we shall see as we go on in our study of this Parable. It is not just walking through the field of the Scriptures that will save a person from their sins. It is only when the person is willing to receive the truth about the treasure hidden there, that they will be saved.

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 6-10** – “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.” “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.” “For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

The wisdom that we have from the Scriptures is spoken by those who know Christ and it is received by those who are mature (made wise through their living their lives according to the Scripture). This hidden wisdom, that is that God would send Christ to be the Savior of sinners and the Lord of a people whom He would renew to a true knowledge of Jesus Christ. This, the people of the world do not understand or know, for if they had known they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. The treasure that all true Christians have, that is the things which God has prepared for those people who love Him, is freely given to all who search for and find these riches in Christ.

**F. When this treasure is found it is because God has purposed it to be so. We have this treasure in earthen vessels.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4: 6 & 7** – “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

The “earthen vessels” here are our earthly bodies which have souls which are weakened by sin. The “treasure” is the Spirit and Presence and Power of the grace of Christ which has brought us salvation. And the intent of our having been given this treasure is that the excellence of the power in us to live the Christian life, might be seen to be of God, and not of ourselves.