

## The Parable of Hidden Treasure

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Matthew 13:44

The parables of “*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*” in Matthew 13 reveal the kingdom in a “mystery form” during this present age as Christ is in the far country to receive the kingdom (Mt. 21:33; 25:14; Luke 19:12).

It is significant that the first four parables of Matthew 13 were spoken publicly to the multitudes outside the house on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (vs. 1-2). They reveal things about the Kingdom of God, from man’s perspective. They are **negative** in nature as Satan opposes God’s kingdom in each parable:

1. The Sower—Satan steals the seed
2. The Tares— Satan sows counterfeit saints among the true.
3. The Mustard Seed — False teachers lodging in the branches
4. The Leaven — False doctrine leading to total apostasy.

However, Satan’s opposition will **not** stop the fulfillment of God’s kingdom. The kingdom will come and triumph over Satan. That is emphasis on the next three parables—The outcome of the kingdom.

Jesus sends the multitudes away and takes the twelve back into the house (v. 36). Privately in the house, Jesus relates these three parables that I call “parables of victory” (vs. 44-50).

➡ Notice these three parables in the context of 1 Corinthians 10:32—*Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God*: God divides the human race into three ethnic groups. The next three parables reveal aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven in it’s “mystery form” today in relation to these three groups.

- Hidden Treasure— The Jews
- Pearl of Great Price— The Church
- Drag Net— The Gentiles

Today we will consider **the parable of the hidden 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.” (Mt. 13:44).*

**A common misinterpretation** teaches a sinner finds Christ (the treasure) and gives up all he possesses to gain Christ to be saved. Three things are wrong with this teaching:

1. Jesus Christ is not a hidden treasure. He is perhaps the most well known Person of history. He is not hiding.
2. The sinner does not "find Christ" for he is not seeking Him (Rom. 3:10). It is Jesus who finds the lost sinner (Luke 19:10). It was God who came looking for Adam after he sinned.
3. No sinner could ever buy salvation! It is a free gift offered by grace.

The correct interpretation is: The field is the world. The man is Christ Himself. The treasure is God’s chosen people, the nation of Israel.

- The treasure = Israel
- The field = the world (see v. 38).
- The man = Christ (vs. 3, 24, 37). Jesus Christ gave up everything to purchase the whole world in order to save the nation (John 11:51).

## **I. Israel’s FAVOR.**

➡ Israel is pictured as 12 JEWELS on the breastplate of the High Priest (Ex. 28:6-21, 29). It was worn on his bosom, near his heart!

➡ As God’s treasure we see the favor of God for Israel in two ways:

A. They are God’s CHOSEN people (Ps. 135:4).

1. The **reason** for God’s choice.

- a) Not because they were better.
- b) Not because they were moral.
- c) Not because they were bigger.

➡ It was simply God’s sovereign choice. Dt. 7:7-8—*The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers,*

2. God’s **7-fold blessing** upon Israel (Romans 9:4-5)

- a) *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption...*  
[God has made them **His adopted family**],
  - b) *...and the glory...* [Shekinah glory — **physical manifestation of God's glory** in the tabernacle and temple],
  - c) *...and the covenants...* [**unconditional promises** God has made to them that He made to no other nation],
  - d) *...and the giving of the law...* [**the scriptures were penned by God thru the Jews**],
  - e) *...and the service of God...* [**the priesthood** and the worship in the OT temple],
  - f) *...and the promises; Whose are the fathers...* [**no other nation has a heritage** like Israel's heritage]
  - g) *and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*
- ➔ Truly, they are God's peculiar treasure—The apple of God's eye!

B. They are God's COVENANT people (Gen. 12:2-3 cf. Ex. 19:5—*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.*)

➔ The last phrase reminds me of the parable—The treasure was buried within the field, which is the world. He put His treasure right here on little old planet earth.

Think about this: The sun at the center of our solar system is just one of billions of stars in our galaxy.

The nearest galaxy, Andromeda, is 2.5 million light years from us (give or take). Traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second] it will take 2½ million years to get there. And that's just our next door neighbor.

The closest star is Alpha Centauri. At the speed of light it would take 4 years to get here.

Imagine this basketball to be our sun and this BB to be the Earth. To scale, the earth (BB) would be ten paces away

from the Sun (basketball). Using this scale, Alpha Centauri, the closest star to us, would be equivalent to the distance of this basketball to Anchorage, AK. And then you've only gone 4 light years. You'd have to go 2.5 million light years to get to our neighboring galaxy, Andromeda, which is but one of millions we can see through telescopes.

➡ From a purely secular, worldly viewpoint, this makes earth appear very small and insignificant. One skeptic wrote, "Ours is a 5<sup>th</sup> rate planet, revolving around a 10<sup>th</sup> rate sun, in a forgotten corner of the universe."

Where did you park your brain in order to make a statement like that? [That reminds me of the guy who said to his wife, "You must think I'm a perfect idiot." She answered, "Well, close, but nobody's perfect!"]

Only a perfect idiot would make a asinine statement as that skeptic.

### **Earth is infinitely significant.**

1. It's the only place in the universe where life is. They keep looking for it in other places, but Genesis 3:20 says **Eve was the mother of all living**—That settles it!
2. It was on THIS planet that God came in the flesh, dwelt for 33 years, died on the cross, and rose to redeem us.
3. In all the universe, it is here on planet earth we find God's hidden treasure—The nation of Israel, with a land area less the size California.
4. God wants to bless US and all nations of the earth thru Israel. It's in the news almost everyday.
5. Someday the Creator and God of the universe will reign over all the earth from Jerusalem upon the throne of David.

## **II. Israel's FAILURE.**

- A. Israel's PURPOSE—Israel was placed in the world to bring glory to God, and be a light unto the Gentiles, but it failed. It abandoned the true God and turned to Baal.
- B. Israel's HIDING—God sent Israel into captivity. The northern tribes were taken captive by Assyria in 721 BC and Judah was taken into Babylon in 586 BC. We could say it like this: **the treasure is taken out of circulation.**
  - ➡ It became a nation hidden, a treasure not being invested to produce dividends for God.

**III. Israel's FINDING** (*"...the which when a man hath FOUND, he hideth, and for JOY thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth THAT FIELD"*).

- A. The man is Christ. When Jesus came the first time 2000 years ago, He came specifically to *"the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Mt. 15:24).
  - 1. What did He find? A hidden treasure, lost in this world.
    - a) They were living under the iron fist of the Roman Empire.
    - b) Their leaders were corrupt, and the people were poor and miserable.
    - c) They had no power and no purpose...it was just a buried treasure.
  - 2. When Jesus came to Israel, He uncovered the treasure, and let Israel know their true destiny.
  - 3. But they rejected their King. *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not"* (John 1:11). They said, *"We will not have this man to reign over us"* (Luke 19:14). They told Pilate, *"We have no king but Cæsar"* (John 19:15). *"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified!"* (Mt. 27:22).
- B. On the cross Jesus BROUGHT the whole field with His blood (1 Pet. 1:18)—Jesus gave *"ALL THAT HE HATH"* to redeem the

world. He was rich and became poor for our sake, so that we might be made rich in Him.

➡ Truly, Jesus paid it all!

1. By buying the whole field, He also purchased the treasure within the field—The nation Israel. On the cross, Jesus died for the whole world; but in a special way, He died for Israel (Isa. 53:8—*“for the transgression of MY PEOPLE was he stricken.”* cf. John 11:51-52).
  2. Notice this phrase—*“...and FOR JOY thereof goeth and SELLETH all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”* CF. Heb. 12:2
- C. What did Jesus do after He found the treasure? He covered the treasure back up!
1. Less than 40 years after Christ spoke this parable, Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus the Roman and the Temple leveled to the ground. The inhabitants were scattered throughout the world.
  2. Today, Israel is essentially buried throughout the world. The largest population of Jews is not in Israel but in North America.

#### **IV. Israel’s FUTURE.**

➡ There is a future for Israel. God is not through with Israel as a nation. The apostle Paul wrote: *“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid... God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew . . .”* (Rom. 11:1-2).

➡ Why did the Lord hide His treasure after finding it?

- A. To protect it.
- B. For future recovery. The hiding of anything carries with it a time element—A person who hides a treasure has plans to return and claim it. (ILLUS— Christmas gifts hidden).
  1. Politically, the nation was reborn on May 14, 1948. But the nation is far from what it ought to be spiritually. God sees

Israel as His treasure, and one day He will establish her as His glorious kingdom.

2. At the second advent, Jesus will come and “take possession” of what He purchased (Rev. 11:15).

**SUMMATION:** America—stand behind Israel. Don’t mess with Israel! It is His treasure!

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