

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	The Strange Mystery of the Buried Treasure
SERMON REFERENCE:	Matthew 13:44
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2049

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are seven parables that Jesus called “the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.”
 - i) They are all in Matthew 13.
- b) Maybe you have dug for buried treasure, or maybe you have fantasized about finding a trove of treasure.
 - i) The Lord tells a parable about that.
- c) Matthew 13:44
 - i) A man finds a treasure in a field.
 - ii) He uncovers it.
 - iii) He knows it is not his because the field is not his.
 - iv) He covers the treasure and goes and buys the field.
 - (1) With the field, he has the treasure.
- d) A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- e) The usual interpretation of this parable is the wrong interpretation.
 - i) The usual interpretation says the following:
 - (1) The treasure is the Gospel.
 - (2) The field is the Bible where the Gospel is hidden.
 - (3) The man is a sinner who goes into the Bible and finds the treasure.
 - (4) He gives up everything in order to be a Christian.
 - (a) He sells all that he has.
 - (5) This is not the proper interpretation.
 - ii) In these parables, the field is not the Scripture.
 - (1) The field is the world.
 - (a) Matthew 13:38
 - iii) The man is not the lost sinner seeking Heaven.
 - (1) The man is Jesus.
 - (a) Matthew 13:37
 - iv) The treasure could not be Christ or the Gospel.
 - (1) Christ and the Gospel are not hidden in this world.
 - (a) The world is not a friend to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (b) Who would be able to hide Jesus once he found Him?
 - (c) Why, once he found the Lord Jesus, would he hide the Lord Jesus?
 - (2) Christ is not for sale.
 - v) We cannot buy the field or the treasure in the field.
 - (1) Salvation is the free gift of God.
 - (2) Even if we could buy it, what would a bankrupt sinner have in order to buy it with?
 - (a) It is obvious that this is not the right interpretation, although it is the normal interpretation.
 - (3) The Gospel is not for sale.
 - f) The key to understanding this parable is that Jesus was speaking to His disciples in private.
 - i) Matthew 13:11

- ii) The first part of these seven parables in Matthew 13 is discouraging.
 - (1) The Parable of the Stubborn Soil
 - (a) Matthew 13:3-9
 - (b) Remember the stony soil and the thorny soil.
 - (c) This is kind of a negative parable.
 - (2) The Parable of the Treacherous Tares
 - (a) Matthew 13:24-30
 - (b) The weeds are sown among God's good wheat.
 - (i) These are hypocrites in the church.
 - (3) The Parable of the Monstrous Mustard Tree
 - (a) Matthew 13:31-32
 - (b) In this monstrous tree are birds that want to steal away the seed.
 - (i) This tells us about the rise of false cults.
 - (4) The Parable of the Lethal Leaven
 - (a) The woman hid the leaven in the loaf of bread, and it permeated the whole loaf.
 - (b) Matthew 13:33
 - (c) The leaven is an emblem or symbol of evil.
 - (i) It speaks of Satan's insidious work, as he tries to infiltrate the church with the leaven of sin.
 - iii) The Lord now gives this parable to encourage them and to encourage us.
 - g) In today's message, we will get a lesson in history and prophecy.
 - i) We will find out that the treasure that is hidden in the field is the nation of Israel.
- 2) ISRAEL IS A TREASURE SOVEREIGNLY CHOSEN (EXODUS 19:5)
- a) God calls Israel His peculiar treasure.
 - b) Deuteronomy 14:2
 - i) Israel is God's chosen treasure.
 - c) Psalm 135:4
 - i) God continues to say that Israel is chosen, and Israel is a treasure.
 - d) Nowhere in the Bible can we find where the church is called a treasure.
 - e) Israel is God's chosen nation and a treasure unto Almighty God.
 - f) Don't argue with God about Israel.
 - i) It is none of our business why God chose the Jewish people.
 - (1) They are a treasure unto the Lord.
 - g) If we want to know what is going on in the world, then study Israel.
 - i) They are God's yardstick.
 - ii) They are God's blueprint.
 - iii) They are God's outline.
 - iv) They are God's program.
 - v) As Israel goes, so goes the world.
 - h) If you study the Bible, you will not find much in it about America.

- i) But over and over again, we will find God's peculiar treasure which is Israel.
- 3) ISRAEL IS A TREASURE SADLY COVERED (MATTHEW 13:44)
- a) This is God's treasure; but this treasure was covered in the field, in the world.
 - b) When Jesus came into this world, Israel was lost unto her original plan and purpose.
 - i) The kingdom that God had promised to His people, the kingdom of Heaven, was languishing.
 - c) Israel was under the iron boot of Rome.
 - i) They had gone for four hundred years as a little, obscure, and insignificant nation that was subjected to Rome.
 - (1) The temple itself was overrun with money changers.
 - d) Jesus called them the lost sheep of Israel.
 - i) Matthew 15:24
- 4) ISRAEL IS A TREASURE SOVEREIGNLY CLAIMED (MATTHEW 15:24)
- a) Israel was chosen, covered, and claimed.
 - b) The Lord came to this Earth, and what did He do?
 - i) He uncovered the treasure that was hidden in the field.
 - (1) The field is the world.
 - ii) He displayed for three-and-a-half years the kingdom of Heaven.
 - iii) He came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 - (1) Matthew 15:24
 - iv) He revealed the treasure.
 - c) Matthew 12:24, 28
 - i) They criticized Jesus for casting out demons.
 - ii) The Lord, the King of the kingdom, was in their midst.
 - (1) They refused Him.
 - (2) They spurned Him.
 - (3) They were blind to spiritual reality.
 - (4) They said He had a demon.
 - iii) What was Jesus' response?
 - (1) Matthew 13:13-14
 - (2) The kingdom was uncovered.
 - (a) There was a glimpse of glory.
 - (b) There was the very King doing miracles in their midst.
 - (c) But they were blind to that reality.
 - (d) And the kingdom was buried again.
 - d) Jesus spoke to them in parables, not only to reveal, but also to conceal.
 - i) This was the first time Jesus spoke in parables.
 - (1) Matthew 13
 - ii) He spoke in parables because as Jesus came to reveal the kingdom of Heaven, that kingdom was spurned, neglected, refused, and lied about.

- iii) The Lord who had chosen the treasure uncovered the treasure and then covered it back again.
 - e) Now, Jesus is going to reveal the treasure.
 - i) Jesus revealed the treasure, covered it back up again, and went to redeem that treasure.
 - ii) He was the one who paid the price to buy the field.
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - (2) Jesus purchased the field with His own blood.
 - (a) John 3:16
 - f) The Lord Jesus is the one who is coming to reveal the treasure, to redeem the treasure, and to reclaim the treasure.
 - i) The Lord Jesus is coming back to this Earth.
 - ii) He has bought Israel with His own blood.
 - iii) He is coming back to reclaim the treasure that He has redeemed.
 - iv) He bought the field in order to return for the treasure.
 - g) God is not finished with the nation of Israel.
 - i) Matthew 23:37-39
 - (1) “Your house is left unto you desolate” means that the treasure was covered.
 - (2) One day, the scales will fall from Israel’s eyes, as they fell from the eyes of the Apostle Paul.
 - (3) When they see Him, they will say, “Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”
 - (a) Matthew 13:39
 - ii) Romans 11:25-29
 - (1) The Apostle Paul was talking about a mystery.
 - (a) This is the strange mystery of the buried treasure.
 - (2) “Blindness in part has happened to Israel.”
 - (a) The treasure is covered.
 - (3) Sometimes people will say that this is talking about spiritual Israel.
 - (a) God never calls spiritual Israel, “Jacob”.
 - (i) “Jacob” is a name for fleshly Jews.
 - (4) Israel turned away from the Gospel, and Gentiles got saved.
 - (5) God never changes His mind when He makes a solemn promise.
 - (a) God is coming back for His treasure.
 - iii) Psalm 89:27-37
 - (1) This is speaking of David.
 - (a) King David epitomizes the highest and noblest king that Israel ever knew.
 - (2) “Selah” means, “Think about that.”
 - h) God prophesied that the Jewish nation would be disobedient, dispersed, discredited, but not destroyed.
 - i) Even to this very day, there are mad men who want to destroy Israel.
 - (1) The king of Egypt could not do it.

- (2) The Red Sea could not drown Israel.
- (3) Jonah's whale could not digest Israel.
- (4) The fiery furnace could not devour Israel.
- (5) The gallows of Haman could not hang Israel.
- (6) The nations of the world have not been able to assimilate Israel.
- (7) The dictators cannot annihilate Israel.
- ii) Israel is God's chosen people.
- i) God prophesied in the last days that He would bring Israel back.
 - i) In 1948, Israel became a nation.
 - (1) A nation born in a day after eighteen centuries.
 - ii) They are back in the land and speaking the same kind of Hebrew that Amos preached with.
 - iii) Other nations get assimilated.
 - (1) They are dispersed and cannot be found.
 - (a) When was the last time you had a conversation with an Amalekite?
 - (2) But Israel is like the Gulf Stream flowing in the ocean of the nations.
 - (a) She maintains her identity.
 - (b) God has kept this people as His peculiar treasure.
 - iv) Yes, she has been buried in the field, and Israel has suffered unspeakable atrocities and persecution under Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Nero, the Turks, Hitler, and under some who call themselves Christians.
 - v) But Israel is God's treasure.
 - (1) God chose the treasure.
 - (2) The treasure was covered.
 - (3) The treasure was purchased by our Lord.
 - (4) And He is going to come back and redeem His treasure.
 - j) The Jewish nation could no more be destroyed than God could be removed from His throne.
 - i) Jeremiah 31:35-37
 - (1) What ordinances is this passage talking about?
 - (a) The sun, the moon, the stars, the mighty oceans, and the tides.
 - (2) God will cast off Israel when we can pull down the sun, moon, and stars, and when we can tell Him how high is up and show Him something the Earth is resting upon.
 - ii) God will keep His word to Israel.
 - (1) Every Jewish person we see is a testimony to the faithfulness of God.
 - k) Jesus is coming back for His treasure one day.
 - i) Malachi 3 speaks of the second coming of the Lord.
 - (1) Malachi 3:3-4
 - (a) In this passage, "He" refers to Jesus.
 - (b) Silver is a treasure.
 - (c) The sons of Levi are the Jewish people.
 - (2) Malachi 3:17-18

- (a) When the Lord comes, He will separate the sheep from the goats.
- ii) There is coming a time when Israel will recognize their King.
 - (1) Zechariah 13:1
 - (a) There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins.
 - (2) Zechariah 13:9
 - (a) He is coming for His treasure.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) What does this mean to us?
 - i) Everything is on schedule.
 - ii) If God kept His word to Abraham, then God will keep His word to us.
 - iii) If God has sovereignly kept His word to Israel, then we know that He will keep His word to us.
 - iv) The signs of the times are telling us that our Lord is just about to step out of the glory and uncover the treasure that He has bought.
 - (1) Israel is the treasure.
 - v) Blindness has happened to Israel, in part, until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16