

Understanding the New Testament Gospels The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Mt. 13:44)

- I.** After the first four parables Jesus sends the crowd away, only the 12 are with Him as He interprets those parables and tells the 12 three more parables (Mt. 13:36).
1. The first four parables to the crowd prophesy impending gloom during the Kingdom from the Heavens.
 - 1) 1st Most will not receive the word regarding the Kingdom.
 - 2) 2nd The Kingdom will be infiltrated.
 - 3) 3rd The Kingdom will grow beyond its intended purpose.
 - 4) 4th The doctrine concerning God will be fabricated.
 2. The first four parables portray the Kingdom as it appears to the world. The last three parables show God's point of view of the Kingdom.
- II.** The symbols of the parable:
1. "Treasure" used to describe Israel (Ex. 19:5; Duet. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ps. 135:4).
 2. The "field" is the world (Mt. 12:35).
 3. Treasure "hidden" in the field: the treasure is already existent in the field and represents Jewish hardness of heart (Rom. 11:25; 2 Cor. 3:14).
 4. "Which when a man found" is Jesus' earthly ministry offering the Kingdom from the Heavens (Jn. 1:11; Mt. 15:24).
 5. He hides the treasure again in the field.
 - 1) This is the rejection of by Israel of the Kingdom on His terms (Mt. 11:12; Jn. 6:15; 18:36).
 - 2) He changes family allegiance from physical to spiritual (Mt. 12:46-50).
 6. Joyfully He buys the whole field at great cost is the work on the Cross (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:6; 4:10; Heb. 2:9; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Jn. 2:2). The field is purchased before finding the treasure a second time (Rom. 3:25).
- III.** What is omitted is important:
1. The treasure remains hidden anticipating the owners return.
 2. The treasure cannot be found again till the time of the Gentiles is full after the church is gone (Rom. 11:25).