

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE**

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#4- Series on the Parables

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE

Matthew 13:44

Here in Matthew 13 Jesus gives us what is called “*The Kingdom Parables*”. *The “Kingdom of heaven”* has to do with a **KING** who is the ruler in the hearts of those who have made Him the King of their lives.

The first 4 parables were written to the multitude to reveal some things about God and His Kingdom, from man’s perspective. Fact is, they are negative in nature.

- ◆ **Parable of the Sower**
- ◆ **Wheat & Tares**
- ◆ **Mustard Seed**
- ◆ **Leaven**

A quick overview of the next 3 parables: Look at **I Cor. 10:32** says something very interesting....”*Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*”

The next 3 parables will show us what the Lord is doing on the earth in relation to these 3 groups.

Hidden Treasure - **Jews**
Pearl of Great Price - **Church**
Net - **Gentiles**

The common interpretation, like many parables, is a mistaken one. Jesus and salvation are the treasure, and the man is a seeking sinner who sells all that he has to receive salvation. Of course, there are problems with this interpretation.

First of all, the man finds the treasure. But truth is, people don’t find Jesus, rather, He finds them.

A 2nd problem is that the man sells all that he has to purchase the field. Obviously, this doesn’t send the right message about salvation by grace.

The 3rd problem: Jesus Christ is not a hidden treasure. He is the most prominent, best known personality in the history of the world. The field is the world. The man is Christ Himself. The treasure is God’s chosen people, the nation of Israel. The purpose of this parable is to show God’s working in His chosen people. The future of the Hebrew people is depicted in the parable of the hidden treasure.

Consider with me Israel’s Favor, Failure, and Future...

I. Israel’s Favor

A. Israel is God’s chosen, favored people, a treasure chosen by God.

B. Israel is God’s covenant people

Secondly we see . . .

II. Israel’s Failure

We could say it like this: the treasure is out of circulation. Their golden era had passed, they were living under the iron fist of the Roman Empire. (*Matthew 12:28; Matthew 13:15; Matthew 23:37-38*)

Thirdly we see . . .

III. Israel’s Future

V. 44b the shocking part of this is that the man not only wanted to buy the treasure, but to buy the whole field.

This is the beautiful language of the cross. Jesus gave everything He had...He emptied Himself and died for us! **Jesus died for the whole world. The entire field can be saved...**but He died in a special way to redeem Israel (*Isa. 53:8*).

A pastor put an article in the paper stating that on Sunday he would preach on the subject of “**How to destroy the Jews**”. His text was *Jeremiah 31:35-36*. Everyone was amazed, the rabbi was grinning, and a powerful point was made. Nothing can destroy God’s people.

America - stand behind Israel, God’s people. **Don’t mess with Israel!** And Jesus gave all to purchase the whole field, including you and me, and now we are part of God’s chosen treasure, adopted into the Kingdom!