

Kelham Baptist Church
Men's Bible Study
February 19, 2023

THE PARABLES OF MATTHEW 13
AND THE CHURCH AGE
Lesson 5

**The fifth parable is the parable of the
Hidden Treasure.**

MATTHEW 13:44. *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for the joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*

The first four parables were given to the crowd by the seashore, the last three were given to the disciples in private. So, this is a special parable that Jesus gives to His close associates. We must be careful to interpret according to the way Jesus explains the second parable to the disciples:

READ MATTHEW 13:37-38. The man that sows the seed is Jesus (Son of man), the field is the world. The treasure is Israel

(Exodus 19:5 and Psalm 135:4). Jesus is the man, He gave up heaven to come to deliver Israel, but they refused Him. The Israelites are God's chosen people and He has made covenants with them that are still binding and will be kept. But since Israel has rejected their king and His kingdom, God's clock for the fulfillment of these promises has stopped during the church age and will be restarted after the church is taken out of this world. In the church age, **Israel has no testimony for God** and therefore is, for all godly purposes, dead and buried. Jesus went to the cross to buy the field (the world) where the treasure is buried. In the bible, the ground represents Israel and the sea represents other nations. So, Israel is the treasure buried in the ground of the world. Israel has no testimony and will remain buried until the second coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation. At that time Jesus will uncover the treasure and present it to the Father as a valued treasure. That is when all Israel is saved by the grace of God.

READ REVELATION 3:1-6. The fifth letter in Revelation is to the church at Sardis

and pictures when Martin Luther left the Catholic church and about the time the printing press was invented. It is addressed to the Pastor of the church at Sardis, Christ identifies Himself as the one who has the seven spirits of God, and the seven stars. The number seven signifies “complete” or “full”, so Jesus is saying He is full of the spirit of God and He has control over the seven pastors of the churches. This church has done works that look good, but Jesus is saying their works are not perfect. They have many things that are good works, but they need to be careful to strengthen the good that they do. The Catholic church evolved out of the Apostolic church when they began to elevate the clergy and then when Constantine ordered his army to join the church, so Jesus is telling them to remember how they have drifted away from the true foundation they came from and repent or He will come to them like a thief at an unknown hour. Jesus acknowledges that there are some in that church that are true believers who will walk with Him in white garments. He closes this letter as with the others: “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”. Do not ignore the warnings, but seek to understand and obey God’s

will.

The message of this letter, and the parable point out the fact that Israel never fully understood the real meaning of the sacrifices they were required to make under the Law, and when Jesus came to deliver them from the bondage of sin, they refused Him, and hung Him on a tree (The sixty-ninth week prophesied in Daniel).

The church at Sardis was the prominent church during the epoch A.D. 1517 until 1750 during the time when the Catholic church was sending missionaries to South American and North America. The church looked alive, but spiritually was dead.

Next, the parable of the Pearl of great price and the letter to the Philadelphia church.

