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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Finding a Fortune in a Field

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE SEVENTEEN: Finding a Fortune in a Field (Mt. 13:44)

SURVEY

A man discovered a hidden treasure in a field. In his excitement he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get sufficient money to buy the field and thus secure the treasure.

SIGNIFICANCE

This parable employs the first of (at least) two symbols for the nation Israel. For the second, see parables 42 and 43.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The treasure here probably represents Israel, and the man is Christ. Often in the Old Testament, God describes that nation as His special treasure. Note:

"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" (Exod. 19:5).

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth" (Deut. 14:2).

"For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure" (Psa. 135:4).

"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." (Mal. 3:17)

- Just why God initially chose Israel to be His special people is a mystery indeed. An ancient poem observes:

How odd of God to choose the Jews.

Someone however has added the following words to this poem:

But odder still God's plan to see,
To use the likes of you and me!

- In a key passage Moses explains and describes God's relationship with Israel:

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. 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, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Deut. 7:6-8)