

## Daily Devotional

**April 21, 2005**

(Contributed by David Berry)

**Theme:** Fields of Dreams

It appears to be just another long day of manual labor in the weary rhythm of time, but suddenly the ox stops and tugs mischievously. The peasant drives his plowshare deeper into the earth than he usually does. He turns over furrow after furrow until he hears the sound of a harsh metallic noise. The ox stops pawing. The man pushes the primitive plow aside.

With his bare hands he furiously digs up the earth. The dirt flies everywhere. At last the peasant spies a handle and lifts the large earthen pot out of the ground. Trembling, he yanks the handle off the pot. He is stunned. He lets out a scream—"Yaaaahh!" --- that makes the ox blink.

The heavy pot is filled to the rim with coins and jewels, silver, and gold. He rifles through the treasure, letting the precious coins, and rare earrings, and sparkling diamonds slip through his fingers. Furtively, the peasant looks around to see if anyone has been watching him. Satisfied that he is alone, he heaps the dirt over the earthen pot, plows a shallow furrow over the surface, lays a large stone at the spot as a marker, and resumes plowing the field.

He is deeply affected by his splendid find. A single thought absorbs him; in fact, it so controls him that he can no longer work undistracted by day or sleep undisturbed by night. The field must become his property.

As a day laborer it is impossible for him to take possession of the buried treasure. Where can he get the money to buy the field? Caution and discretion fly out the window. He sells everything he owns. He gets a fair price for his hut and the few sheep he has acquired. He turns to relatives, friends, and acquaintances and borrows significant sums. The owner of the field is delighted with the fancy price offered by the purchaser and sells to the peasant without a second thought.

The new owner's wife is apoplectic. His sons are inconsolable. His friends reproach him. His neighbors wag their heads: "He stayed out too long in the sun." Still, they are baffled by his prodigious energy.

The peasant remains unruffled, even joyful, in the face of widespread opposition. He knew he has stumbled on an extraordinarily profitable transaction and rejoices at the thought of the payoff. The treasure, which apparently had been buried in the field for security before the last war and whose owner had not survived, returns a hundredfold on the price he had paid. He pays off all his debts and built the equivalent of a mansion in Malibu. The lowly peasant is now a man whose fortune is made, envied by his enemies, congratulated by his friends, and secure for the rest of his life. (Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child*: p.15-16)

**Text:** Matthew 13:44

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."

**Reflection:**

- What does this story stir in your heart?
- What things stand in the way of your relationship with God?
- What would it take to feel the passion for the kingdom of God that would make you do anything to acquire it?
- Take a few minutes and share with God whatever your thinking?