Date: 6/13/20

Title: Hidden Treasure

Theme: We buy the hidden treasure of Jesus by surrendering all of our heart to Him.

Object: Plastic bags containing Indian arrow head collection.

Text: Matthew 13:44 NIV "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

How many have ever dreamed of finding a hidden treasure?

What if you were helping your parents plant a garden, and your shovel hit a metal box?

And you dug it up and opened it up and it was filled with gold or diamonds or emeralds, or rubies or pearls?

Would you be excited?

What if you lived close to the ocean and you dreamed of finding pirates gold?

And you scout around and look for placers that pirate ships may have come ashore to bury their loot.

When I was a kid, I dreamed of finding buried treasure.

I didn’t live near the ocean, so I didn’t dream of pirates’ gold.

But after school and in the summer, we would often be out in the woods looking to build a shack or find a treasure.

And the treasure we dreamed of finding was Indian arrow heads.

So we would look for a little hill or mound that we could imagine was an Indian burial mound.

And we thought that if we dug down into that mound we might find Indians buried with their bow and arrows, and we could keep all the arrow heads we found.

Well, sad to say, I never found the treasure I was looking for. I didn’t find a single Indian arrow head.

But I’m happy to say that the treasure I couldn’t find was given to me by my dad.

And here it is. [Hold up bags of Indian arrow heads.]

My dad grew up on a farm in Plain Grove, PA, and one of his jobs as a boy was hoeing corn.

He didn’t much like the job of hoeing corn, but he did like finding all of these arrow heads.

Especially after a rain, he would look for shinny spots on the ground and often it turned out to be an Indian arrow head.

[Show some individual arrow heads.]

Now Jesus told a story about a man who found a treasure in a field.

His treasure wasn’t arrow heads, it was something really valuable.

And so in order to get the treasure, he buried it again, and asked the owner of the field if he could buy it.

Now the owner of the field didn’t know that there was treasure buried in his field, so he sold the field to the man who discovered the treasure for a reasonable price.

Still, the man had to sell all that he had to be able to buy this field with the buried treasure in it.

But once he had the field with the treasure in it, he had way more than he ever had before.

Jesus said that’s like the way the kingdom of God works.

Jesus is like the great treasure that is hidden in the field.

When we find out about Jesus and what He can do for us it’s like finding a treasure worth more than we could ever imagine.

When we find Jesus, we find a Friend who will never leave us, a Friend who died to save us, a Friend who can forgive our sins when we say we’re sorry, and a Friend who gives us eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Does that sound good to you?

Now Jesus is not a treasure that we can buy with money.

Jesus doesn’t want all of our money; He wants all of our heart.

He wants us to love Him and trust Him mor than anything else.

Would you like to put Jesus first in your life? Let’s ask Him to be Number One in our lives.