***A PIRATE’S TALE***

***MATTHEW 13:44***

**Introduction:** *We come to the fifth parable this morning, the parable of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treasure.*

1. *It recognizes the allure and the mystery which always gathers around the notion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ treasure.*
2. *The first four parables were delivered by the Sea of Galilee on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_memorable occasion when Jesus spoke to a great crowd who gathered about him.*
3. *They are part of the whole series of seven, but they were given only to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
4. **A great \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of these parables has developed without any basis in the systematic interpretation of symbols in Scripture, which has hidden their true meaning.**
5. *The usual interpretation of these parables is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price.*
6. *Never, anywhere in Scripture is salvation ever offered to us as something we have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ buy.*
7. *Notice that there are two things in this story which are immediately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because we have had them before.*
8. *The man in these parables is always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself.*
9. *Jesus came, he says, and found a treasure hidden in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
10. *Immediately we are asking ourselves, "What is this treasure?" That is what our Lord \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to ask.*
11. *The treasure is the secret of international \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of harmony among the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
12. *If you want to put that treasure into one word, as revealed by the Scriptures, that word is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
13. *But such is not the case; God did not choose Israel for that purpose. He chose them to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nation.*
14. *When our Lord came into the world and came to Israel, he found that this treasure had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the world.*
15. *By that he indicated that the privilege of demonstrating the grace of God would be taken from Israel and given to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
16. *But the wonderful thing the Lord tells us here is that he has not given up his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*
17. *The life of this land, like that of any other land, is preserved by righteousness. That means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

**Conclusion:** *And do you know that all this is not without its application to us as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as well?*

1. *For Israel, even in rejection, even in failure, is still an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the people of the world.*
2. *This is why this nation is here. It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ example to all mankind of the way God deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*