

Parable of The Hidden Treasure

"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" (Matt 13:44)

The largest gold nugget ever discovered was named: 'The Welcome Stranger.' Two miners, John Deason and Richard Oates, had been searching for gold over a period of seven years with little success. On the day before their discovery, they couldn't even afford to buy a sack of flour, but still they persisted.

Then it happened: On Feb 5, 1869 at a site near Victoria, Australia, John Deason was digging near the base of a tree when his pick struck metal. Brushing away only one inch of topsoil, he saw the glint of gold. When he had pried it loose, there before his eyes was a huge nugget; the biggest one ever discovered to this day.

The nugget weighed 210 pounds and was 18 inches long by 16 inches wide and about 16 inches deep. Its assessed value, at today's cost of gold (\$1650 oz on 4/14/12) would be approximately \$4,158,000.

What lessons do we learn from this story and the parable Jesus told?

- **Keep following your dream**
- **Never give up**
- **When things look most hopeless, the treasure was discovered**
- **It had been there all the time**
- **They were sitting on their blessing**
- **No one else ever thought to dig under the shade tree**

- **It was only one inch below the surface**
- **It was just waiting to be discovered**
- **They hid it till next day**
- **In the ground it was worthless**
- **Its value couldn't be assessed 'till it was found**
- **There might be an even bigger nugget out there**

Parable teaches: There is a treasure more precious than gold that remains to be discovered = Jesus

By Ivan A. Rogers