

THERE IS A TREASURE IN THE FIELD

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Intent of the Story

- ✓ *All men have an obligation to work.*
- ✓ *Where and how to find treasures in life.*
- ✓ *Every success is the fruit of labor*
- ✓ *Perseverance has its rewards.*
- ✓ *You will reap what you sow.*
- ✓ *There is no substitute for hard work. .*

An old farmer owned a large and fertile field that if properly tilled would yield him a rich and plentiful crop. The farmer had four sons. Unlike their father, the sons were lazy bones. They did not bother to help their old Dad to plough or water and cultivate the field. All they wanted was their Dad’s money for drinking, gambling and rioting with their friends.

When their Dad, was old, worn out, sick and about to die, he called his sons to his dying bed, and with a sad yet mischievous look said to them: “My dear boys, I had a secret I always hid it from you. I was afraid to tell you earlier lest you would waste the money hidden in my field. But now, before I die, I have to tell you the truth

The four sons looked at each other in surprise and at their dying father. The old man went on: “There is a treasure hidden in my field. Dig it out, and you will find it! Once you get it, don’t waste it!”

In a chorus, the four boys asked: “Dad, tell us exactly where shall we find that treasure! We shall dig it out immediately!” With a whisper, the old farmer said: “**In my field, sons, in my field you will find the treasure. Dig it out**” and with these words, still in his lips, the old farmer closed his eyes and died

Soon after their Dad’s death, the boys met together and argued: “Dad said that in the field there is a treasure, that if we dig it out, we would find it. But, where in the field should we dig?” One of the boys remarked: “Most likely, the treasure is hidden close to the house, so that robbers might not easily take it away. Come on! Let us begin our work!”

Next day, early morning the neighbors were surprised to see the four boys furiously digging all around the house. They remarked. “Funny, when their father was alive, they refused to work and now that Dad is no more, they are working like mad!” They thanked God for the miraculous change that had come over those wasters. At the end of the day, they did not find any treasure. They were tired and disappointed.

Greedy for money, next day they dug all around the well. They found nothing either! Next, they dug all along the road. That day also ended in frustration. Finally, in sheer desperation, they dug up all over the field. All in vain! The treasure eluded them. Discouraged and disheartened, they stopped digging.

They moaned: “Why did Dad not tell us exactly where the treasure is hidden in the field? We have worked so hard for so many days and we found nothing!! We have wasted our time and our sweat!” One of the boys hinted: “I am afraid that Dad played a trick on us? After slogging so hard, we got nothing at all!”

Few weeks later, the monsoon broke in and the rains kept falling on the soft freshly dug soil. The youngest son said to his brothers: “Look here, the ground is dug; the rain has watered the field. The soil is ready for planting. If we do not plant a thing now, next year we shall starve”. Disgruntled, they agreed to plant paddy in their field.

The rains kept falling, the sun rose and set down many times over the field; in the meantime, the ears of corn began growing big and strong. This time, they were loaded with grain, even more than those in their neighbors’ fields. Soon harvest time arrived. When the harvest was done, the brothers were surprised at the rich crop they gathered, even richer than in their Dad’s best days. They kept with them the grain needed for the year. The extra grain they sold and with that, they collected so much money, as they had never seen before. Joyfully, they kept the money in the safe.

One day, the younger brother, the smartest of them,, called his brothers and with a mischievous smile told them: “You know, at last I found the treasure. Daddy told us that was in the field! In surprise all exclaimed: “Yes! Please, show us where. We have to share it. Come with me, the youngster said and with that he took them to the safe where the money was kept. Winking at them, he remarked: “Here, in the safe, you will find the treasure that was in the field!”

The other brothers angrily shouted at him: “Don’t try to act smart and pull a fast one on us! Tell us exactly where you found the treasure!” The younger brother went on: “Can’t you remember the exact words Dad told us before he would die? **“There is a treasure hidden in my field! Dig it out and you will find it! We dug it, yes we dug the entire field, and we got a treasure! Here it is! In the safe!”**”

(Adaptation of an Aesop’s fable)

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION;

1. What are the lessons taught us in the story?
2. Actually speaking what did the old farmer tell his sons to dig, the treasure or to the field?
3. How and where did they find the treasure?
4. Where and how will you treasures in life? What and where shall we have to dig?
5. Have we to wait for success to come to us or rather we should work hard to secure it? Why?
6. Is an idle and wasteful life really satisfying? Why?
7. Where will a student find true treasures?
8. How long should parents work and maintain their children? Why?
9. Explain the following sentences:
 - There is no substitute for hard work.

- Instant gratification is short lived.
- There is no easy way for a hard job.
- Riches quickly found are soon spent.
- For lazy people short cuts turn long cuts.
- It takes time for hard things to become easy.
- Success is the reward of labor.
- Ploughing brings sweating, harvesting joy.

BIBLE TEXTS ON WORK AND DILIGENCE:

Proverbs: 6/9; 12/11; 13/4; 28/19

- Do not be lazy.
- Diligence.
- Fruits of hard work
- Tilling the land brings wealth.

2 Thes 3/6-11 Obligation to work. He who does not work should not eat!

1 Tim 5/13 Do not be idle.

Heb 6/11 & 12 Do not be lazy. It's God's command.

1 Th 4/11 "If you aspire to lead a quiet life, mind your own business, and work with your own hands, as I commanded you."