

Thought for the Day 11th May - John Reed

Read Matthew 13:44-46

In 1955, at the temple of Wat Traimit in Bangkok, Thailand, a new building was built and the monks set about moving an old clay statue of Buddha into it. A crane was brought in to lift the giant Buddha from its base. As the crane lifted, the ropes broke and the statue fell hard on the ground. Some of the plaster coating chipped off and the monks saw something gleaming from under the top layer of clay. The monks began carefully chipped away at the clay. Hours later, they stood before a solid-gold statue.

The statue, known as the Golden Buddha, or **Phra Phuttha Maha Suwanna Patimakon**, has been dated back to the 13th-14th centuries AD. It is believed that as the Burmese invaders approached the Ayutthaya kingdom in 1767 AD, the statue was covered with a layer of stucco and coloured glass to reveal its true value. The ruse succeeded, and the statue was regarded as virtually worthless for two centuries, until its true nature was discovered by accident.

Jesus says the kingdom of God – the kingdom of which he is the king – is like that. A treasure, hidden and unrecognised by many. But to those who discover the truth, who by some strange accident (or act of God's grace) catch a sneak glimpse, it is the greatest treasure of all – the key to heaven and the heart of God.