

Obadiah 6

Hidden Treasure

Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!

I hate losing things. Once while field dressing a deer, I lost my bison-leather knife sheath in a thick layer of leaves (I rarely carry a knife on my belt but instead carry it in my fanny pack). My dad is a metal-detector hobbyist and easily found my sheath the next day thanks to the single brass snap on the leather. There's no metal on earth that's safe when my dad has his detector in hand. He's searched out tons of "hidden treasure" like watches, knives (and sheaths!), coins, tools, rings, pendants, bracelets, toys, and other assorted metallic items.

One of life's less pleasurable experiences is losing something of extreme value. That was the case in the history of Israel. The close relationship Jacob, that is Israel, could have had with his brother, Esau, was lost in a thick layer of treachery and deceit (Genesis 27). The estranged brothers became patriarchs of nations that would forever fight each other, with Edom (Esau's descendants) wielding the heavier hand. Obadiah's prophetic judgment on the Edomites is a word of warning that is still meaningful today: those who reject the Savior will be judged without mercy.

Obadiah also prophesied, "On Mount Zion there shall be deliverance" (verse 17). That happened in Jerusalem when Jesus died for the sins of every person in the world. Respond to Obadiah's warning by seeking the Savior. Reflect on Obadiah's warning by knowing the Savior. Remember Obadiah's warning by proclaiming the Savior.

TIP: Metal detectors are a very handy tool for outdoorsmen. Even an inexpensive, affordable model can be used to find nuts, bolts, jewelry, cartridge cases (great for reloaders), arrows, keys, and many other items that insist on disappearing in the grass, weeds, and leaves around our homes or in the field. I've also used one to find buried water utilities.

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An edited version of this devotion was posted as the daily devotional on February 10, 2008, at www.SportsmensDevotional.com. Sportsmen's Devotional provides the Christian outdoorsman a daily email Bible study that sportsmen can relate to. The studies are short and to the point, and feature a new photograph and outdoor tip each day.

Obadiah 6 (Study Guide)

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HOOK

1. What was the most valuable item you've ever lost? Was it ever found?

2. Unscramble these 7 metals named in the Bible: dlgo, lsivre, cprpeo, itn, aled, rino, ymcurre

3. From the list of seven metals above, describe what you think each was used for.

LINE

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Think about your brother or sister, or a close friend. How will you strengthen your relationship with him or her? Be genuine and discuss something that you will make an effort to do.

Give a Biblical defense for why people who reject Jesus will be judged without mercy.

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences.

Key words: lose find precious
