

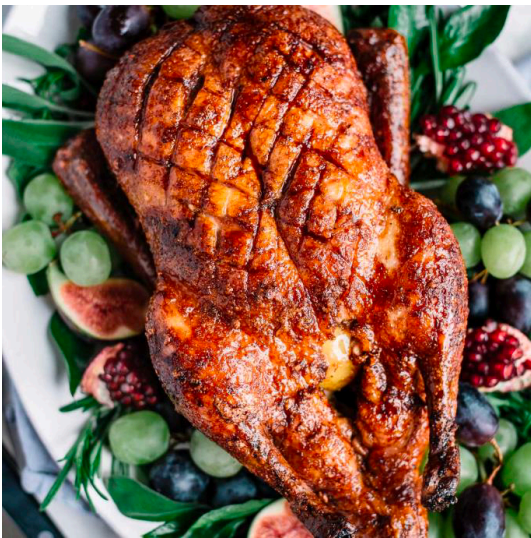
Pastor Brian's
Midweek Message
April 6, 2022

“DUCK HUNTING”

“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.” (Matthew 13:44)

I've never once in my life gone hunting...not in the sense of hitting the woods or waterways with a weapon to bring home something to eat. I grew up in a family that didn't hunt, so there was never that temptation or overwhelming desire in my life. Hunting was not necessary in putting food on our table as there were plenty of grocery stores to supply it during my formative years.

That being said, I did engage in some duck hunting this past week. A few years back Kay and I decided to do something a little different for Thanksgiving and having been watching a whole lot of cooking shows on TV I was led down the path of roasting a duck for the holiday dinner. Duck always seemed to be something that was drooled all over on those telecasts. So, we did, and it was delicious! Kay constantly reminds me that the look on my face as I beheld that beloved fowl is one that she hadn't seen as I looked at her since 1978. After much discussion it was decided that we should get a duck for our Easter dinner this year. Beth has signed off on the deal.



The next order of business was the hunt. In the middle of last week, I began visiting the local supermarkets. There was not a teal, mallard, merganser, or wood duck to be found. Next was their websites, perhaps I could order one for in store pick up. Once again, my shotgun blast came up empty. What was I going to do...I just HAVE TO HAVE duck for Easter dinner! To kind of quote the movie Blues Brothers, “I was on a mission from God”. Given my lack of hunting experience I began to fall into despair. My bride on the other hand comes from a family of hunters, so she took up the challenge. In no time she found

an outfit out of Tampa (Wild Fork Foods) who will deliver us a whole duck right to our doorstep. This message is by no means to be taken as an endorsement of their products, as the flock of fowl is not set to show up until tomorrow. I say flock as we ordered two of them since any order over \$35 included free shipping. So now I can enjoy a roast duck dinner on Easter Sunday evening and then again on Flag Day, or Memorial Day, or St. Swithin's Day (you can look that up to find out what it's all about).

To bring a little faith and theology into this missive I point to my obsession with finding, roasting, and eating duck. It really is wonderful when prepared properly, but I should be just as obsessed with the things of God...pursuing his kingdom. Jesus paints a number of “The kingdom of God is like” pictures in the Gospel. The one above seems to fit my narrative today. A man finds a valuable treasure in a field. He marvels at it and says to himself, “I just have to have that!” He puts it back just where he finds it, gives up everything else he owns in order to buy that field and therefore rightfully possess that treasure. Everything else that he might own pales in comparison to the value of that treasure. He's overjoyed to have it. Citizenship in the eternal kingdom of heaven, God's Kingdom of Glory, is infinitely more valuable than any earthly treasure, and our overwhelming desire should be to possess it. This treasure is revealed to us when we hear the sweet news of the Gospel, God's invitation to us to enter His glorious kingdom and family forever in Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. We take hold of that by faith, leaving the desires of the world behind to receive eternal blessedness. There is nothing in this world that can compare to the glories and joys of heaven, not even duck!