

Buy a Field

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Matthew 13:44

In Matthew 13, our Lord gives us many teachings through the use of parables. The Greek word is *parabolē* and means literally “to throw alongside.” A parable places an earthly image *alongside a spiritual truth so that* the two illuminate each other. It's not an allegory, where every detail carries symbolic weight. A parable typically carries **one central load-bearing point**, with supporting details that establish the scene rather than each meaning something independently. Parables are not primarily illustrations. They are arguments. In Matthew 13, Jesus is making a point.

Why does Jesus speak in parables?

He answers this in verses **11-17**. He does not say, “because stories are easier to remember.” His answer is judicial, covenantal, and prophetically bound.

“Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given... Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.” (vv. 11, 13)

Parables do two things simultaneously:

- They **reveal** truth to those with ears to hear – the disciples, the regenerated, those given grace to receive.
- They **conceal** from those hardening in unbelief – judgment wrapped in a story.

Notice, Jesus now quotes **Isaiah 6:9-10** in verses **14-15**.

Jesus tells us plainly that He used a form that concealed truth from the unbelieving. To understand Scripture (truth), the Spirit of God must illuminate the passage (provide light and understanding). He reveals the truth. That is grace in action. “Knowing Scripture” is not a matter of the intellect and human ability; it is a grace that God provides.

I. The Parable Unpacked (Matthew 13:44)

- A. **Treasure hidden in a field – The Kingdom is not obvious in plain sight.**
 - 1. The treasure is real, but is not self-evident.
 - 2. Discovery requires eyes that have been given sight.
- B. **The Kingdom is “found” sometimes when not looking.**
 - 1. Contrast to verse 45 – the merchant was seeking.
 - 2. This man stumbles (44) upon on it.
 - 3. Many people find Christ through unexpected encounters.
- C. **The Kingdom is “covered” because he knows what he has.**
 - 1. It is not an endorsement of his ethics.
 - 2. It is a detail that intensifies the point, the man will do what it takes to secure what he has found.
- D. **The Kingdom drives our “joy.”**
 - 1. He sells everything joyfully, not reluctantly.
 - 2. The discovery of treasure drives the joy of his sacrifice. It is not a white knuckle commitment.
- E. **He sells all that he has. Total, not partial.**
 - 1. He surrenders everything.
 - 2. What have we not yielded to God for the sake of the Kingdom?
- F. **Buys the field – complete, legal transaction. Cannot be “unpurchased.”**

II. The Bible teaches Believers to “Buy the Field.”

- A. **Abraham at Machpelah (Genesis 23:17-20)**
 - 1. Abraham legally purchased the first piece of real estate in the Promised Land as a cemetery.
 - 2. The land was “promised” but not yet “possessed” by Abraham (He paid full price, before witnesses at the city gate in a complete legal transaction.
 - 3. The Big Idea: He believed in a resurrection and a kingdom to come (**Hebrews 11:16a, 17-19**)
- B. **Boaz and the Field (Ruth 4)**
 - 1. The nearer kinsman refuses to buy (4:6). What the law could not do, Boaz does willingly.

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2. Boaz redeems the field and acquires Ruth as his bride.
 3. It was a public, legal transfer, before witnesses.
- C. **Jeremiah and the field at Anathoth (Jeremiah 32)**
1. Jerusalem is under siege. Babylon is at the gates. Jerusalem's real estate is worthless.
 2. God tells him to buy the field anyway and promises a redemption (**Jeremiah 32:15**)
 3. The purchase price is paid. The deed is sealed. Witnesses are gathered.
 4. Christ buys what is under siege, under curse, under the claim of another. He pays the price when the land looks worthless. He seals the deed when the enemy appears to have won.
- D. **Caleb and His Mountain (Numbers 13 & 14, Joshua 14)**
1. Ten spies: the field is not worth buying. The giants are too large.
 2. Caleb's response: *"Let us go up at once and possess it."*
 - a) *"But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, I will bring into the land."* (Num. 14:24)
 - b) "Followed fully" (Heb. male' achar) — complete allegiance, nothing held back
 - c) Caleb's "other spirit" is not native courage — it is Spirit-wrought sight.
 - d) He waits 40 years.
 - e) Joshua 14:12, *Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day."*
- E. **Achsah and the Springs (Judges 1:12-15)**
1. Caleb offers his daughter, Achsah, to whoever strikes Debir. Othniel wins her. Then Achsah presses further in **Judges 1:15**.

III. The Climax – Christ Buys the Field

- A. **Who is the man in the parable?**
1. Traditional reading: the believer who, having found Christ, counts all else as loss (**Phil. 3:8**)
 2. Christological reading (Goodwin, Spurgeon): Christ is the buyer.
 - a) The treasure = His elect people, hidden in the field of the world
 - b) He finds them. He hides them (they are kept, secured).
 - c) He sells all He has — empties Himself (Phil. 2:7), takes on flesh, endures the cross — to buy the field
- B. **The price has been paid**
1. Ephesians 1:13–14 — the Spirit is a down payment (arrabon) securing the full transaction
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:20 — "Bought with a price"
 3. 1 Peter 1:18–19 — not with silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ
- C. **The purchase is particular and secure**
1. Parties of the purchase are defined.
 2. Christ publicly purchased his possession and it is secure.
 3. The deed is sealed and filed.

IV. What Does it Mean For You to "Buy the Field?"

- A. You cannot see the treasure without Grace.
- B. Joy Drives the Surrender.
- C. The Cost is Real – best to name it.
- D. The Purchase Secures What Cannot Be Taken.

V. One Story, One Price, One Joy.

- A. These stories tell one story:
1. Abraham bought a grave in faith — and planted a flag in a promise not yet visible
 2. Jeremiah bought a field under siege — and declared the covenant would outlast the curse
 3. Boaz bought the field and the bride — and showed that the redeemer takes both the inheritance and the people
 4. Caleb claimed his mountain at 85 — and showed what it looks like to hold a promise for a lifetime
 5. Christ emptied Himself, bore the cross, and purchased a people — for the joy set before Him
- B. *The Kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field...and he buyeth that field.*