

Matthew 13:44-46

A Perspective and a Process

⁴⁴ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, let's look at these parables in the natural world. Here are the elements and sequence of events:

- There is a treasure, something of great value hidden from a person.
- A person suddenly finds this hidden treasure. They didn't see it or possess it before.
- Now the person has obtained it, but they must not have legal possession, so they hide it in that same field.
- They must recognize this find as a great value because they do so and sell off all that they previously owned so they have enough money to buy the field where the treasure is hidden.
- Notice, they are not sad or reluctant about this transaction, they have joy in doing this. Joy in getting rid of what they used to own so they can now own this new treasure.
- The treasure and the field must be worth considerably more than what they previously had, so they must see this as a great investment.

"Under rabbinic law if a workman came on a treasure in a field and lifted it out, it would belong to his master, the field's owner; but here the man is careful not to lift the treasure out till he has bought the field." (Carson)

Application: some people know about Jesus but don't really own him.

So, when I first looked at this parable, I immediately thought that the hidden treasure is Christ. Believers are the ones who discover Him and release our past and previous desires and replace them with the desires of Christ which we discover is of much greater value than what we possessed in the world. However, I couldn't quite figure out what the field might represent. The field must be important as the treasure is buried there, and the person purchases the field in order to have claim and ownership to the treasure.

I found there are varying opinions. Some of my favorite commentators indicate that the field is the world and that the Man is Christ who gives himself up for the world as he sees us as a treasure. Let's take a look at these viewpoints.

David Guzik:

- The field is the world, but the **man** does not represent the believer, because we have nothing to buy this treasure with. Instead, Jesus is the **man** who gave all that He had to buy the field.

Charles Spurgeon:

- “So did Jesus himself, at the utmost cost, buy the world to gain his church, which was the treasure which he desired.”

However, I found a different perspective in one of my other favorite commentary.

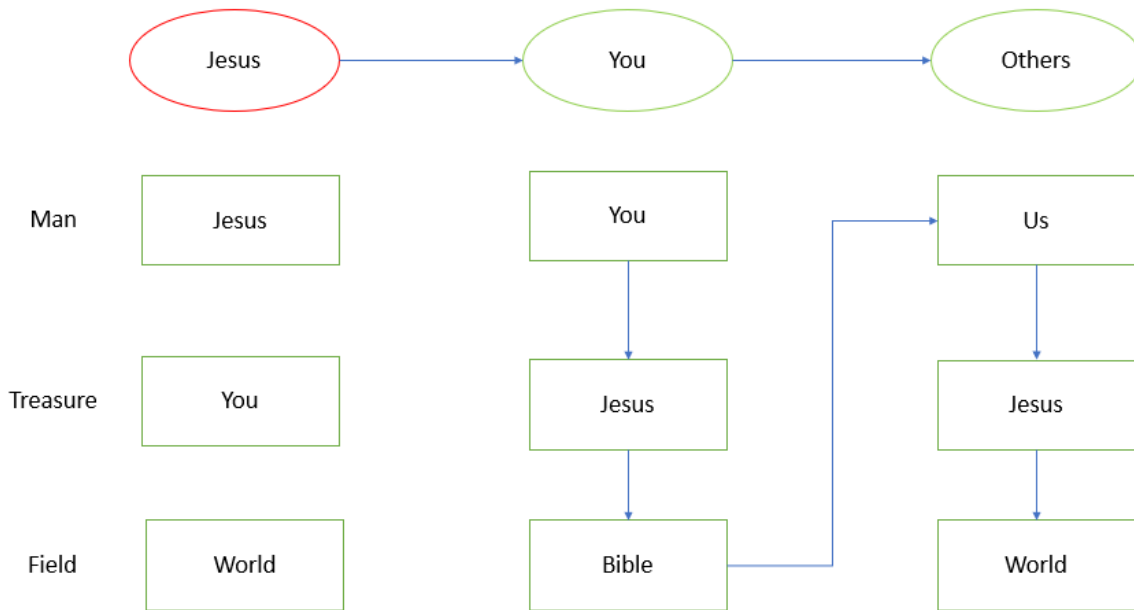
Matthew Henry:

- Jesus Christ is the true Treasure; in him there is an abundance of all that which is rich and useful, and will be a portion for us: *all fulness* ([Col. 1:19](#); [Jn. 1:16](#)): *treasures of wisdom and knowledge* ([Col. 2:3](#)), of righteousness, grace, and peace; these are laid up for us in Christ; and, if we have an interest in him, it is all our own.
- **The gospel is the field in which this treasure is hid**: it is hid in the word of the gospel, both the Old-Testament and the New-Testament gospel. In gospel ordinances it is hid as the milk in the breast, the marrow in the bone, the manna in the dew, the water in the well, *the honey in the honey-comb*. It is hid, not *in a garden enclosed, or a spring shut up*, but *in a field*, an open field; *whoever will, let him come, and search the scriptures*; let him dig in *this field*.
- It is a great thing to discover the treasure hid in this field, and the unspeakable value of it. The reason why so many slight the gospel, and will not be at the expense, and run the hazard, of entertaining it, is because they look only upon the surface of the field, and judge by that, and so see no excellency in the Christian institutes above those of the philosophers; nay, the richest mines are often in grounds that appear most barren; and therefore they will not so much as bid for the field, much less come up to the price. What is the Bible more than other good books? The gospel of Christ more than Plato's philosophy, or Confucius's morals: but those who have *searched the scriptures*, so as in them to find Christ and *eternal life* ([Jn. 5:39](#)), have discovered such a treasure in this field as makes it infinitely more valuable.

After reviewing **these different perspectives**, I prefer from an application approach, my original thoughts combined with Matthew Henry's idea that the field represents the Gospel. I also believe that one can see Jesus purchasing and redeeming us as a point in this parable. However, since we are His disciples and we are to be like Him, I again return to my original points that we like Christ must find and see the value in this great treasure and be willing to surrender all to claim full rights and ownership.

The diagram below shows the three perspectives. Also, when moving across the columns you can see the process. That process starts with Jesus and ends with us joining him in the great work of spreading the good news to others. Additionally, there are several other items that could be added under each column for application. They include the following:

Hiding, Joy, Stuff to be sold, the actual Transaction. This is all part of the process.



Application for Today:

- How valuable is it in finding Christ? Of what value is he to us? He should be the most important treasure we find.
- In order to truly possess this treasure, we have to seek Him and recognize the value in doing so.
- Finding Christ should bring us great joy. This revelation should be quite like the shepherds in the field who heard the good news from the angels about the birth of Christ and left what they were doing to go find him.
- Knowing about Christ and being excited about Him, doesn't mean you fully possess this great treasure and the good life He provides. We must pursue full ownership. This means surrendering the things we previously held as more valuable and fully investing in Christ.
- Until we are able to place Christ as the most valuable pursuit and investment in our lives, we can never really enjoy full ownership of the benefits this great treasure offers.
- Understand, what we have in Christ is more valuable than any thing else we may pursue and value in the earth.
- Using what Matthew Henry states, the Bible is a most valuable field and place for us to dig and discover with joy, new treasures. This is what the Kingdom of God is like....believers pursuing Christ and surrendering all, just as Christ has done to secure us.

⁴⁵ **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:**

⁴⁶ **Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.**



This parable is very similar to the treasure and field parable where it recognizes the great value of the Kingdom. I believe the same application points and take aways are there. Whether the merchant is represented as Christ or us as believers, this points the value of the Gospel and the Kingdom. This is something we should pursue. There is nothing more valuable in life, than the pursuit of the Kingdom.

Christ truly gave up all, his very life for us. He has paid the purchase price and sees us as very valuable. We should never let the enemy trick us into believing that we are not precious in His sight (John 3:16).

One commentary states Jesus is the buyer and we are the precious pearl. I think this is a very accurate assessment.

A different commentary (Henry) offers a different perspective:

- All the children of men are busy, *seeking goodly pearls*.
- Jesus Christ is a *Pearl of great price*, a Jewel of inestimable value, which will make those who have it rich, truly rich, rich toward God; in having him, we have enough to make us happy here and for ever.
- A true Christian is a spiritual *merchant*, that seeks and finds this pearl of price; that does not take up with any thing short of an interest in Christ, and, as one that is resolved to be spiritually rich, trades high.
- Those who would have a saving interest in Christ, must be willing to part with all for him, leave all to follow him. Whatever stands in opposition to Christ, or in competition with him for our love and service, we must cheerfully quit it, though ever so dear to us.

I tend to see this parable more in line with Christ purchasing us. However, the application for us remains the same with just one additional note from the earlier parable we discussed....that is simply, if Jesus sees us as so valuable, we should not then discount our own value. We are important to the Kingdom. Even angels rejoice when we are saved.

- Letting go of some things (transaction) so we can obtain something much more valuable.
- We are walking the field (Bible) picking up new gems.