

act of selling a piece of ground. It is also used to indicate an employer's pay of hired workers (Matt 20:8), for produce payment-in-kind to owners by responsible tenant farmers (Matt 21:41), and for account-giving by appointed steward-managers (Luke 16:2), as well as by people at large (Acts 19:40). It is used to indicate repayment in a contractual obligation made by the Samaritan with the innkeeper (Luke 10:35). Persons who had nothing to pay were forgiven (Luke 7:42), while those who may be guilty of wrongdoing are encouraged to settle up their accounts before they are called upon to pay up to the last penny (Matt 5:26; Luke 12:59). The person, like Zacchaeus, with a redeemed heart, determines that for his acts of cheating his fellow human beings, he will repay those cheated "four times the amount" (Luke 19:8).

In a spiritual sense, the Lord promises to reward his saints who are faithful in their giving to the needy, in praying, in their fasting, etc. (Matt 6:4, 6, 18).

Ἀγοράζω is another important word in the Gospels and Acts used in the description of commercial work transactions. The basic concept of the word is "to go to the market-place to purchase."²¹ It is used in our literature to indicate the purchase of a variety of goods: food (βρώματα, Matt 14:15, Luke 9:13); τροφᾶς (John 4: 8); bread in particular (Mark 6:36, John 6:5); oil (Matt 25:9, 10); animals (five oxen, Luke 14:19, and animals for temple sacrifice, Matt 21:21; Mark 11:15); goods, such as a garment (Luke 22:36); fine linen (Mark 15:46); sweet spices (Mark 16:1); pearls (Matt 13:46); land purchases (Matt 13:44; Matt 27:5; Luke 14:18).

Still another word for the buying-selling transaction is πωλέω²² ("sell"). This word is used for a wide range of purchases, from animals, as sparrows (Matt 10:29; Luke 12:6) and animals for sacrifice (Luke 19:45), as oxen and sheep (John 2:14) and doves (Matt 21:12; Mark 11:15; John 2:16), to goods (Matt 13:44; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22), such as garments, swords, oil (Matt 25:9), other property (Acts 5: 1), and fields (Matt 13:44).

The value of the thing sold is emphasized in Matt 10:29 (two sparrows sold for an assarion, 1/16 of a denarius which was a workman's daily wage) and in Luke 12:6 (five sparrows sold for two assaria, 1/8 of a denarius). Emphasized are sales in which the proceeds were to go to the poor (Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22; Acts 4:34, 37; 5:1). Bad aspects of selling and buying are suggested in Luke 17:28 when it is stated that buying and selling and the like was all there was to life in the days of Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah.

The advantages of making profit is suggested in the parable of the talents (Matt 25:16) where the servant is described as trading his five talents (ἐργάζομαι, he worked with his talents) to gain five more, and the parable of the ten pounds (Luke 19:23) where the master expects the money at least to have been deposited in the bank²³ where it could have drawn interest (πράσσω, produce something).

Some of these same Greek words just examined emphasize the fulfilling of obligations for work done. Jesus tells of an employer who hires men for specific wages (Matt 20:1,2) and those wages are paid (Matt 20:8); here